PROOFREADERS NEEDED FOR KINGS' VIKING AND AN UPCOMING PROJECT!

HelveticaScans
ヘルベチカ漫画

Send us your King's Viking Fanart to have it displayed here! :)

KINGS' VIKING

FUKAMI MAKOTO & SADAYASU

ARC 1 CHAPTER 3

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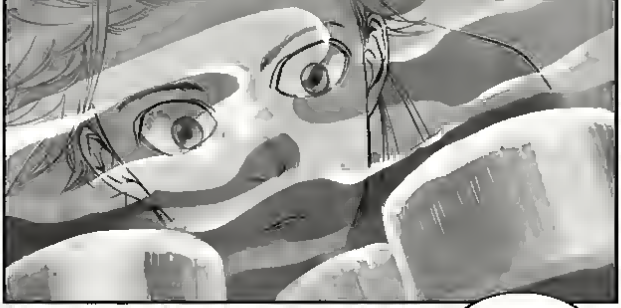
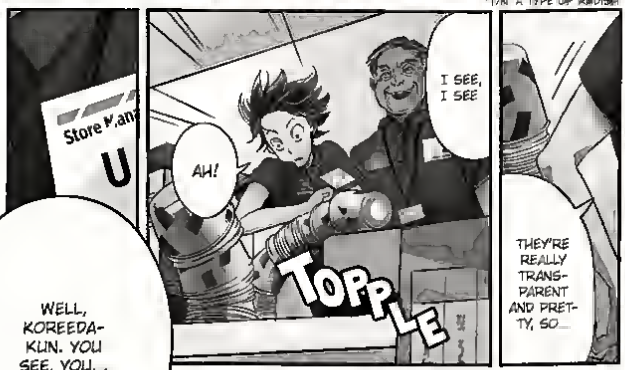


HUH?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN OVER 10 MINUTES I'M AMAZED YOU DON'T GET BORED DOING THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY.
YOU REALLY LIKE DAIKONS, DON'T YOU?


I SEE, I SEE
AH!
TOPPLE
THEY'RE REALLY TRANSPARENT AND PRETTY, SO...
WELL, KOREEDA-KUN. YOU SEE, YOU. .

DON'T NEED TO COME HERE ANYMORE.

THIS WORK IS FICTION. ALL PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS ARE NOT RELATED TO REAL LIFE

WE WILL SOON BE ARRIVING AT THE 350 METER OBSERVATION DECK
VOOOOM
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS GOING A LITTLE TOO FAR SAKAI-SAN?
I MEAN, A BUSINESS PARTY AT SKY TREE?!

OH, IT'LL BE FINE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE.

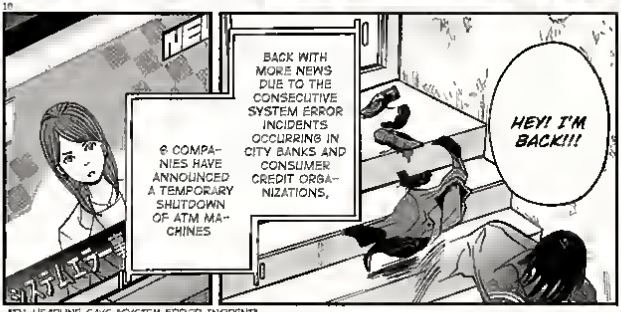
THE MORE FUN IT IS, THE BETTER, RIGHT?
BUT A PARTY AS FLAGRANT AS THIS?! WON'T THE MEDIA BASH US AGAIN?
IT'LL MAKE FOR GOOD ADVERTISE-MENT!
Check In
Celebration! A Bebico Party!
1 minute ago
At Sky Tree!
HOW MUCH DID ALL OF THIS COST?
FROM BUNNY GIRLS, GEISHAS, ALL THE WAY TO FEMALE TV AN-NOUNCERS...
IT'S MY MONEY, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
HAHA, WELL IT SURE IS LIKE YOU, SAKAI-SAN...
SO, HOW MUCH HAS YOUR COMPANY GROWN?

YES, THANK-FULLY ALTHOUGH IN MY CASE, I AM BUT A MERE SALARYMAN
HMM... ABOUT 5 BILLION?
YOUR ORGAN-IZATION HAS MADE QUITE A BIT AS WELL, HASN'T IT?

HEY PRESIDENT, WHAT KIND OF BUSI-NESS ARE YOU IN?
THE "ANGEL" BUSINESS.
OH MR. THERE'S AN ANGEL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WELL THIS PLACE IS 350 METERS ABOVE THE GROUND IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE AT ALL IF THERE HAP-PENED TO BE ANY

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LACK OF MANNERS
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT WORK HERE? MAN THIS IS WHY VENTURE CAPITALISTS HAVE A BAD NAME
OH YEAH, SAKAI-SAN ABOUT THAT THING THE OTHER DAY
NOW THEN, LET US PREPARE A TOAST
10 MILLION ACTIVE USERS A MONTH
AND 10,000 USERS A DAY THAT'S THE KIND OF DEAL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
YEAH, THOSE ARE PRETTY INSANE NUMBERS AFTER ONLY TWO YEARS
LET'S AIM FOR A 10 BILLION NET WORTH BUSINESS NEXT!
Re:
FOUND IT!!!!
going to a party free! ~

!
IT'S HERE!!
HUH?
I'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A DRIVER AND A TATAMI ROOM!!
Clink
I NEED TO GO BACK NOW!
SORRY! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE AT A PARTY!!
SAKAI-SA—?
渋谷
SHIBUYA
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU! ENJOY THE PARTY WITH EVERY-ONE!!
WAI—
...SAKAI-SAN?!

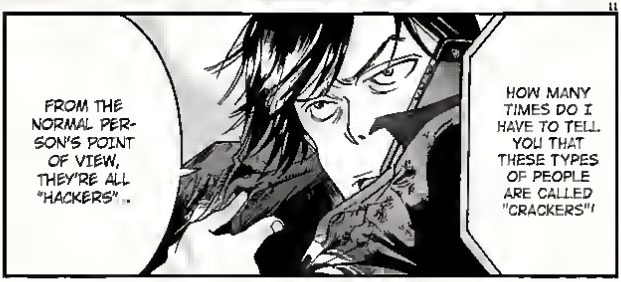

HEY! I'M BACK!!!
BACK WITH MORE NEWS DUE TO THE CONSECUTIVE SYSTEM ERROR INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN CITY BANKS AND CONSUMER CREDIT ORGANIZATIONS,
6 COMPANIES HAVE ANNOUNCED A TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN OF ATM MACHINES
システムエラー

*TN: HEADLINE SAYS "SYSTEM ERROR INCIDENT"

HELLO?
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
WATCHING THE AFORE-MENTIONED NEWS ON THE 9TH FLOOR
THIS INCIDENT IS BECOMING A PRETTY BIG DEAL...
ZZZZZZZZ

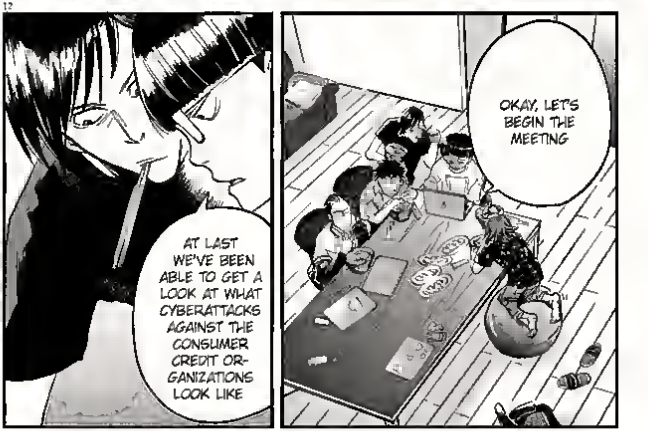
*TN: HEADLINE SAYS "SYSTEM RELIENT"

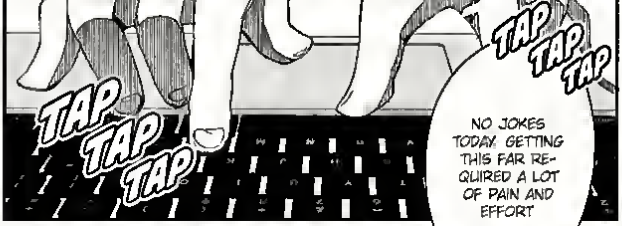
SAKAI-SAN, WHAT ABOUT THE PARTY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, HURRY UP AND COME DOWN I ORDERED FOOD
IF YOU TAKE YOUR SWEET ASS TIME I'LL EAT IT ALL SO HURRY UP!
ALRIGHT! ON MY WAY!
SO, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THAT "AMAZING HACKER"?

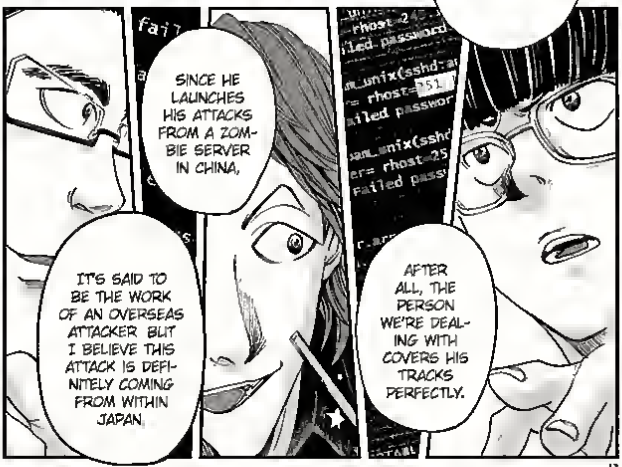

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THESE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE CALLED "CRACKERS"!
FROM THE NORMAL PERSON'S POINT OF VIEW, THEY'RE ALL "HACKERS"..

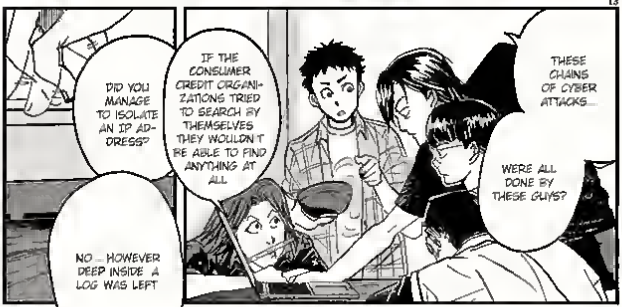
OH, COME ON! DON'T LUMP "HACKERS" AND "CRACKERS" TOGETHER!
...AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO WEAR PANTS?
SHUT UP, THIS IS MY HOUSE. ALRIGHT, 580 YEN EACH! PAY UP!
FUCK! YOU'RE SO STINGY!

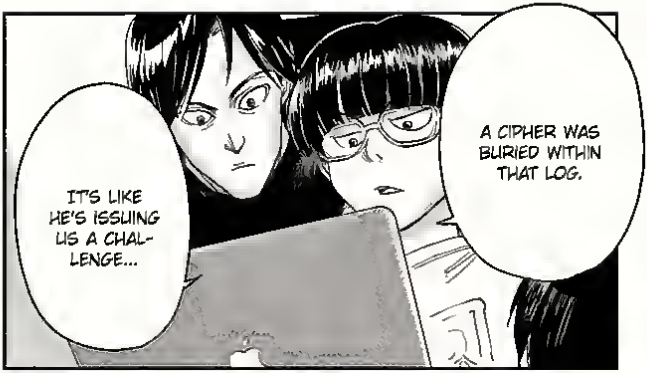
12


OKAY, LET'S BEGIN THE MEETING
AT LAST WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET A LOOK AT WHAT CYBERATTACKS AGAINST THE CONSUMER CREDIT ORGANIZATIONS LOOK LIKE


TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP
NO JOKES TODAY. GETTING THIS FAR REQUIRED A LOT OF PAIN AND EFFORT


SINCE HE LAUNCHES HIS ATTACKS FROM A ZOMBIE SERVER IN CHINA,
IT'S SAID TO BE THE WORK OF AN OVERSEAS ATTACKER BUT I BELIEVE THIS ATTACK IS DEFINITELY COMING FROM WITHIN JAPAN.
AFTER ALL, THE PERSON WE'RE DEALING WITH COVERS HIS TRACKS PERFECTLY.


DID YOU MANAGE TO ISOLATE AN IP ADDRESS?
IF THE CONSUMER CREDIT ORGANIZATIONS TRIED TO SEARCH BY THEMSELVES THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING AT ALL
THESE CHAINS OF CYBER ATTACKS...
WERE ALL DONE BY THESE GUYS?
NO... HOWEVER DEEP INSIDE A LOG WAS LEFT

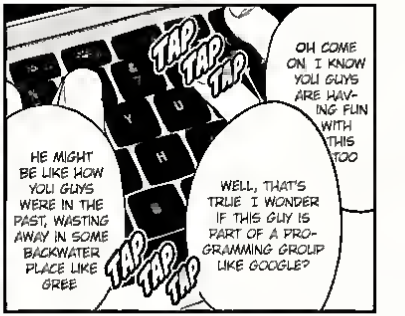

A CIPHER WAS BURIED WITHIN THAT LOG.
IT'S LIKE HE'S ISSUING US A CHALLENGE...

JEEZ. YOU THINK WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AS LONG AS YOU SAY THAT...
I KNEW I CHOSE THE RIGHT GUYS!
OF COURSE!

SO... WERE YOU ABLE TO DECODE THAT CIPHER THINGY?

14

IT SEEMS LIKE THE ANSWER TO THAT WILL ONLY BE TOLD TO THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO CLEAR HIS TEST.
THINK


HE MIGHT BE LIKE HOW YOU GUYS WERE IN THE PAST, WASTING AWAY IN SOME BACKWATER PLACE LIKE GREE
WELL, THAT'S TRUE. I WONDER IF THIS GUY IS PART OF A PROGRAMMING GROUP LIKE GOOGLE?
OH COME ON. I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE HAVING FUN WITH THIS TOO
TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP

A MAP...
IS HE TELLING US TO COME FIND HIM?

HUH? WHY? THIS INVESTIGATION WAS REQUESTED BY A FINANCING FIRM, WASN'T IT?
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS GIVE THEM INFORMATION REGARDING THE PERPETRATOR AND WE'LL BE DONE RIGHT?

DAMN, WHAT A WASTE.. WAIT, SAKAI-SAN?
I'M GOING!

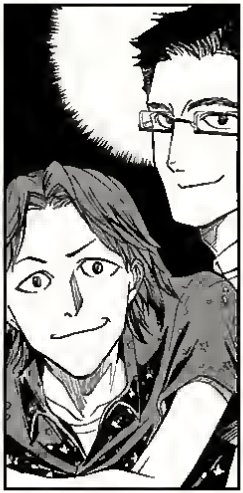
AH, THE RAMEN'S GOTTEN STALE!

I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT AFTER I GO AND SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON THIS HACKER IS.

16

SOMEONE WHO HAS THIS MUCH SKILL, I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON THIS HACKER IS...

OH YEAH, GOOD IDEA!
OH, SAKAI-SAN, TAKE THIS WITH YOU!



Y-YEAH...
IS HE REALLY WEARING A T-SHIRT INSIDE A JACKET?
PROBABLY A GENIUS LIKE YOU GUYS?!
WHOOSH

17

THIS IS...
SCREECH

ビデオ・DVD
HE TRICKED US, DIDN'T HE...

JEEZ

LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HERE AFTER ALL

HMM... I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE A GREAT HACKER STAYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS

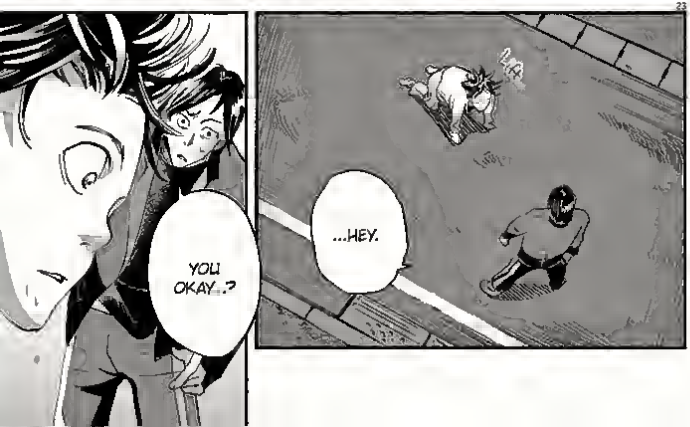
OH!! ARE YOU THE LEGENDARY HACKER?
HOW ABOUT GOING WITH ME FOR SOME COFFEE RIGHT NOW—

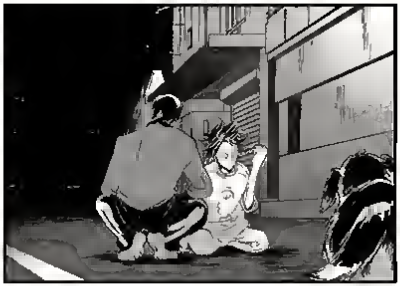
BAM
YOU ...!!
!
DASH

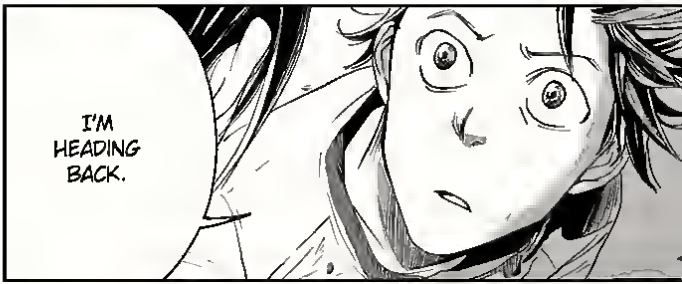
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
BAM

COME ON!
WAIT!!
HEY...!!
YOU'RE MISTAK-EN!
I'M NOT A POLICE OFFI-CER!
I JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

I'M...!
P
空


...HEY.
YOU OKAY..?




I'M HEADING BACK.

I WON-DER... IF IT'S ALRIGHT FOR ME TO GO WITH HIM?

OH... I SEE..
RUI

HEY, JUST TO MAKE SURE, BUT...
ARE YOU THE LEADER OF THE ONES CAUSING THE RECENT INCIDENTS?
LEADER? I'M WORKING ALONE
...ALONE?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT NOT ONLY DID YOU BREAK INTO TOKYO LOAN, BUT ALL 14 COMPANIES?!
HUH?
UMM
YES, BUT...

FIRST OF ALL, ARE YOU WORKING AT THIS VIDEO RENTAL PLACE?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!
CRASH
IS IT?!

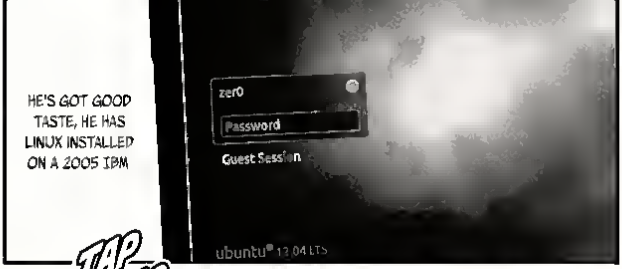
WHO KNOWS...
WHO KNOWS? YOU DON'T MEAN TO SAY YOU'RE LIVING HERE BY YOURSELF?
YEAH, ALTHOUGH IT'S ABOUT TO BE TORN DOWN SOON.

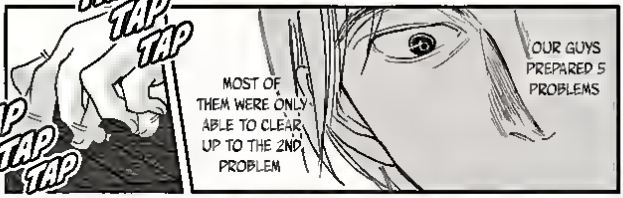
26

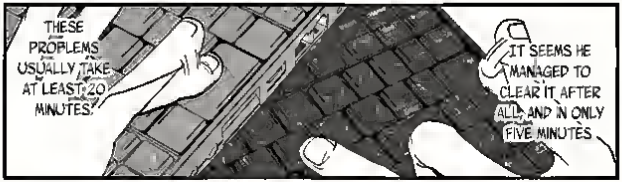
THEN YOU'VE BEEN CONDUCTING CYBER ATTACKS FROM HERE AS WELL?
.....
HEY...

FLAP
FLAP
crumple
I WANT TO SEE YOU WORK.
I HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR YOU
27
INTER-ESTED IN TRYING THEM OUT?
FFALO
I'VE BROUGHT SOME IN-TERESTING PUZZLES

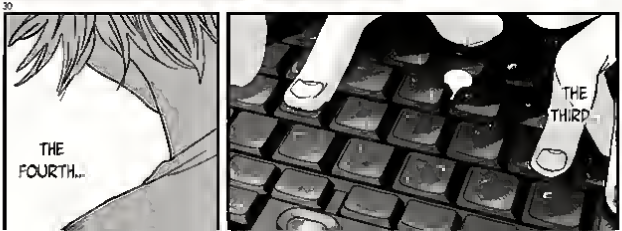
THEY'RE LIKE THE CIPHER YOU SET UP...
HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
28
GRAB
AH...
SORRY, I WASN'T.


HE'S GOT GOOD TASTE, HE HAS LINUX INSTALLED ON A 2005 IBM
zer0
Password
Guest Session
ubuntu® 13.04 LTS


TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP
MOST OF THEM WERE ONLY ABLE TO CLEAR UP TO THE 2ND PROBLEM
OUR GUYS PREPARED 5 PROBLEMS


THESE PROBLEMS USUALLY TAKE AT LEAST 20 MINUTES.
IT SEEMS HE MANAGED TO CLEAR IT AFTER ALL, AND IN ONLY FIVE MINUTES

HE DEFINITELY HAS THE ABILITIES OF SOMEONE ABLE TO BREAK INTO THE TIGHT SECURITY OF THOSE FINANCING ORGANIZATIONS DON'T TELL ME HE'S GOING TO CLEAR THEM ALL.
AND FURTHER-MORE, HE USED AN UNUSUAL METHOD...


THE FOURTH...
THE THIRD...

NO, WAIT AT THE VERY LEAST, THERE'S NO WAY THE 5TH ONE WILL GO THAT WELL. AFTER ALL, THAT PROBLEM NEEDED OUR UNDERGROUND GUYS WORKING AS A TEAM OF 4, AND TOOK OVER A WEEK TO...

I'VE SOLVED IT.
NO WAY! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HOW!!
WHAT, ALREADY?
YES
YOU REALLY ARE WORTHY OF THE TITLE "HACKER".
click

A TITLE BESTOWED ON ONLY THOSE WHO EXCEL IN BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL.
THE TITLE "HACKER" IS THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT THAT CAN BE GIVEN IN OUR WORLD.
NO NO, I CALLED YOU BY THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE WORD.
YEAH, I'M A CRIMINAL. GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
TO SOMEONE WITH ABILITIES LIKE YOURS, THE TERM "HACKER" SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS.

SLAP
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHICH BRINGS ME TO THESE QUES-TIONS!!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME IS KOREEDA, I'M ..
HAVE YOU MADE ANYTHING BEFORE IN THE PAST?
OR RATHER I SHOULD FIRST ASK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT WORK.
ARE YOU STILL A STUDENT?
18 YEARS OLD, IN HIGH SCHOOL
OH!! YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL? THAT'S GREAT!

THAT'S REALLY GREAT! A HIGH SCHOOL ENTREPRENEUR! THAT'S AMAZING!
flinch
IT'S SURE TO CAUSE A BUZZ AS WELL!
THAT'S, UMM
YOU REALLY ARE OF THE DIGITAL GENERATION!
THA—

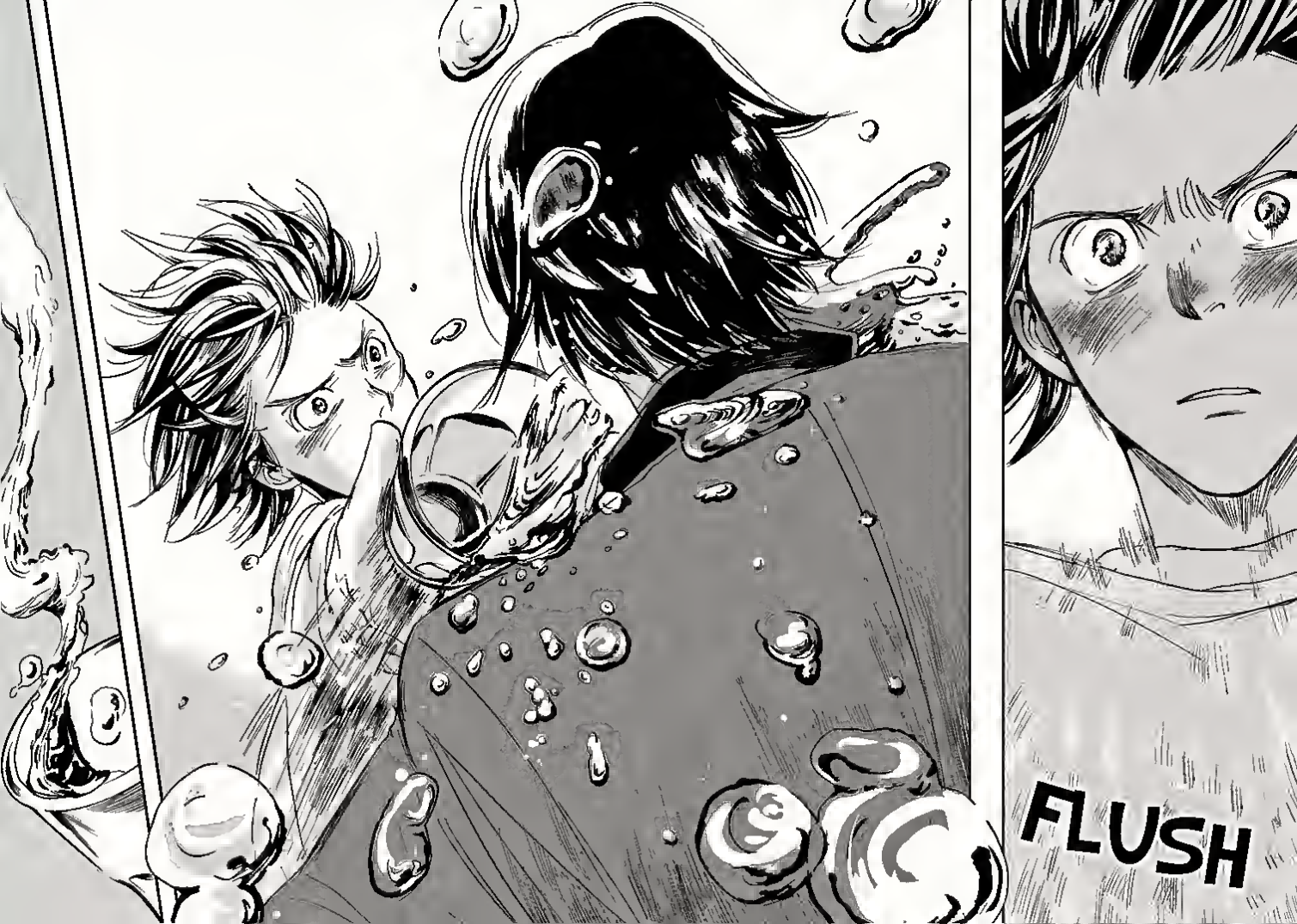
坂井大輔
Daisuke Sakai
MY NAME IS SAKAI OF "ANGEL INVESTMENTS"
ESSENTIALLY, PEOPLE WHO HAVE MONEY SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE MONEY.
NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY, BUT WE ALSO TEACH YOU THE INS AND OUTS OF OUR TRADE.

I KNOW! A 10 DIGIT BUSINESS! REALLY GETS YOUR BLOOD PUMPING, RIGHT?!
NOT INTER-ESTED
I BEGAN MY OWN BUSINESS AT 27 AND TWO YEARS LATER SOLD THAT COM-PANY FOR 2 BILLION
WHAT?
35
I DON'T WANT TO CONQUER THE WORLD
YOU POS-SESS THE "HANDS"!
THE "HANDS" THAT ARE ABLE TO TURN DREAMS INTO REAL-ITIES!
WHY?
I BELIEVE THAT THE BUSINESS WE ARE IN IS THAT OF WORLD DOM-INATION!
I'M FINE AS I AM NOW

IN THE REAL WORLD, SOMETHING LIKE WORLD DOMINATION IS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC

PREP
HOWEVER. IN THE IT WORLD,
EVEN IF ONE DOES POORLY, ONE PERSON HAS THE POWER TO CAUSE A BILLION. NO TWO BILLION PEOPLE TO MOVE!
THERE'S NO OTHER WORLD LIKE THAT!!
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH SOME SILLY PLAYING AROUND!
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING FUN AND NOT DOING ANYTHING!

DEEP DOWN INSIDE, YOU WANTED TO BE DISCOVERED BY SOMEONE, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT A LOG! ON PURPOSE!


FLUSH

820
I'M SORRY,
I FORGOT I WAS SPEAKING TO A KID...
TO ME, THIS IS EVERYTHING.

BECAUSE I WAS A STUPID WEIRDO, I DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.
AND THEN, AFTER TRYING TO WORK PART TIME JOBS AT CONVENIENCE STORES, I WAS FIRED THREE TIMES

I WAS UPSET AND AFTER COMING HOME, I OPENED MY PC AND
AN ANNOUNCEMENT BANNER WITH A SMILING GIRL THAT SAID "EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE" STARED BACK AT ME.
THAT'S WHY I CRACKED INTO THOSE FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WIPED OUT THEIR DATA.
41
I HAVE NO FAMILY AND SOON, I'LL BE DRIVEN OUT OF HERE AS WELL.
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO FIND A JOB.
THEN WHY...

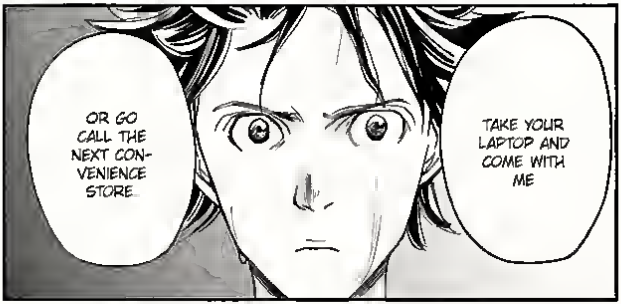
WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL AT THIS AS WELL?

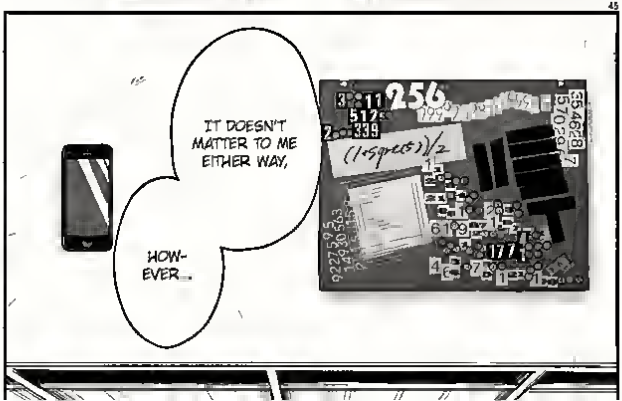
WHAT HAPPENS IF I TURN THIS INTO A JOB, AND COME TO HATE IT?
THIS IS...

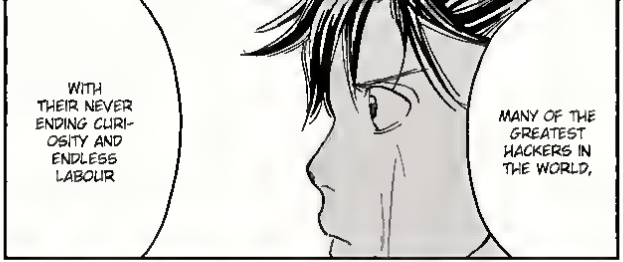
PCS ARE MY EVERY-THING.

Splash
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE...
THEN THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE.

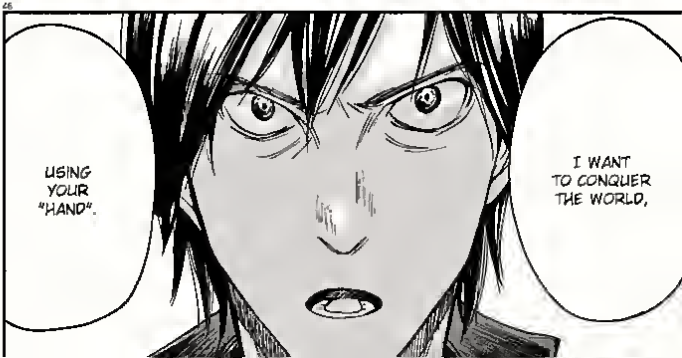
CHOOSE.


TAKE YOUR LAPTOP AND COME WITH ME
OR GO CALL THE NEXT CONVENIENCE STORE

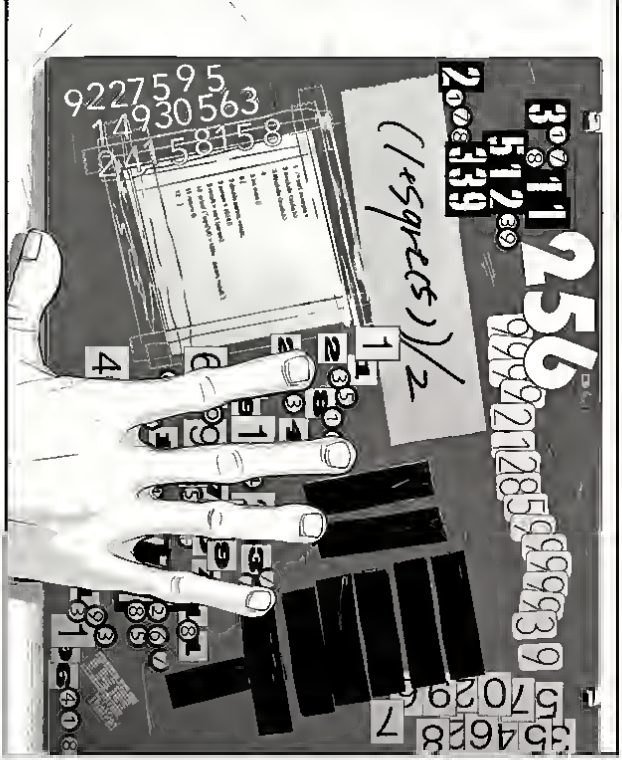

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY,
HOWEVER...
256
512
339
(1+spec(s))/2


WITH THEIR NEVER ENDING CURIOSITY AND ENDLESS LABOUR
MANY OF THE GREATEST HACKERS IN THE WORLD,

CREATED A COMPLETELY NEW WORLD.
THAT'S WHY I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME.


USING YOUR "HAND".
I WANT TO CONQUER THE WORLD,

NOW THEN, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO WITH THOSE HANDS OF YOURS?

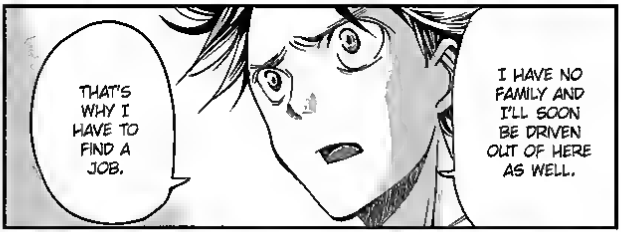


THIS IS THE VOYAGE LOG OF THE TWO MEN WHO WOULD LATER HOLD THE KING'S CROWN AND THEIR HUNT FOR TREASURE ISLAND.

THIS IS...

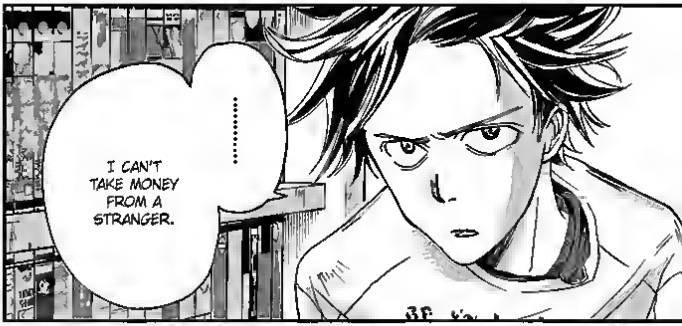
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THEY WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A NAMELESS YOUNG MAN AND A WORKAHOLIC ANGEL.

TODAY MARKS THE THIRD TIME I'VE BEEN FIRED.
I'VE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.


THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO FIND A JOB.
I HAVE NO FAMILY AND I'LL SOON BE DRIVEN OUT OF HERE AS WELL.

WHAT?

I SEE I UNDER-STAND YOUR SIT-UATION QUITE WELL.
BASIC-ALLY, YOU NEED MONEY, RIGHT?


I CAN'T TAKE MONEY FROM A STRANGER.

Perk
DON'T BE STUPID, THIS IS MY INVESTMENT FOR YOUR TALENT.
STARTING TOMORROW, COME BY MY PLACE...

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?!

{CODE 1:ANALYZE THIS} #1

YOU CAME!
GENIUS HACKER KOREEDA!

THAT NEW CROSSWALK THAT THEY JUST PUT DOWN...
I WANTED TO WALK...
WHAT?
UMM,
YOU CAME BARE-FOOT...?
I WANTED TO STEP ON THE WHITE PARTS WITH MY BARE FEET.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT THAT'S WHY YOU FORGOT YOUR SHOES?
5
.....
I DON'T KNOW
WELL, WHATEVER FOLLOW ME.
CLICK
STARTING TODAY, I'LL HAVE YOU WORK AT ONE OF THE COMPANIES I'M TAKING CARE OF.

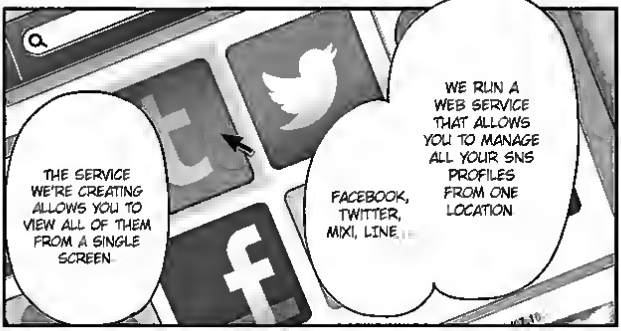
SERIOUSLY, THESE GUYS...
SLEEPING HERE AGAIN... HEY!
AH!

SO YOU'RE KOREEDA-KUN!
GRAB
!!
HE CAME?! THE 18 YEAR OLD?!
IT WAS AMAZING! THE CYBER-ATTACK!
UHM.
I...IT'S NICE TO MEET...
UM

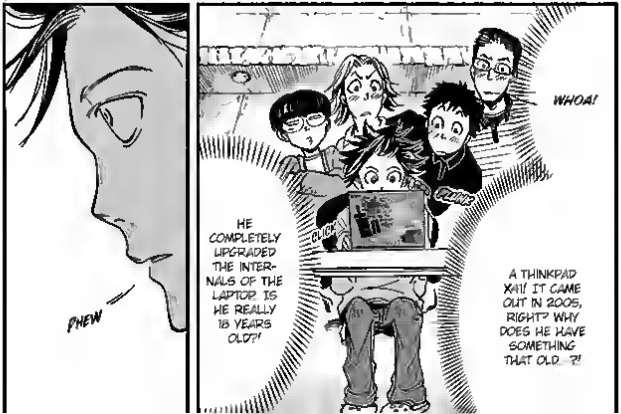
OH NICE TO MEET YOU!
OUR COMPANY HERE IS CALLED "HEDGEHOG", AND WE RUN AN SNS RELATED SERVICE
WE LODGE HERE IN SAKAI-SAN'S HOUSE FOR 24 HOURS A DAY AND WATCH OVER WHAT HAPPENS

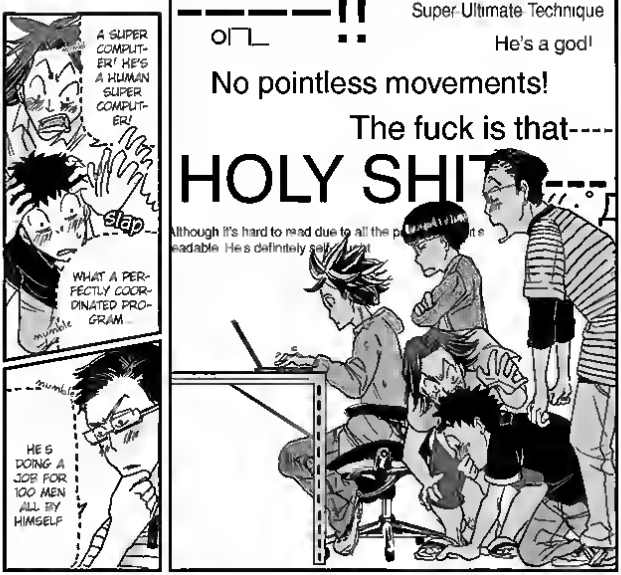
THESE GUYS, EVEN THOUGH THEY SEEM LIKE YOUR AVERAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS
THEY STARTED THIS COMPANY 2 YEARS AGO AND NOW IT'S JAPAN'S #1 STARTUP COMPANY
ドクドク

AND NOW YOU GO LEARN HOW TO WORK!
FROM THE BEGIN-NING
WE COULD USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET SO YOU'RE REALLY HELPING US OUT!


WE RUN A WEB SERVICE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO MANAGE ALL YOUR SNS PROFILES FROM ONE LOCATION
FACEBOOK, TWITTER, MIXI, LINE, ETC.
THE SERVICE WE'RE CREATING ALLOWS YOU TO VIEW ALL OF THEM FROM A SINGLE SCREEN.

SO KOREEDA-KUN WE FIRST WANT YOU TO CREATE A REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH PROGRAM AS A TEST
IT'S A BIT DIFFICULT FOR YOUR VERY FIRST JOB SO FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR TIME
THE PROGRAM YOU'RE CREATING WILL SEARCH FOR VISUALLY SIMILAR IMAGES.


WHOA!
CLICK
A THINKPAD X41! IT CAME OUT IN 2005, RIGHT? WHY DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING THAT OLD...?!
HE COMPLETELY UPGRADED THE INTERNALS OF THE LAPTOP. IS HE REALLY 18 YEARS OLD?!
PHEW


Is this the power of a wizard?!!!
Super-Ultimate Technique
He's a god!
No pointless movements!
The fuck is that----
HOLY SHIT
A SUPER COMPUTER! HE'S A HUMAN SUPER COMPUTER!
slap
WHAT A PERFECTLY COORDINATED PROGRAM...
HE'S DOING A JOB FOR 100 MEN ALL BY HIMSELF

I'VE FINISHED
WELL THEN AT THIS RATE...
Chunk!
Chunk!
Chunk!
Chunk!

TAP TAP
TAP TAP
OK! YUU-SUKE, DE-BUG!
LET'S GET TO WORK!!
STOP...
TAP TAP TAP TAP..

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
LOOK OUR MAIN PASSWORD HAS BEEN CRACKED
BUT NOBODY TOLD HIM WHAT IT WAS...
WAIT, DID YOU TURN OUR MACHINES INTO ZOM-BIES?!*
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS GUY MADE OUR "FRIENDS ONLY" DATA OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
UM

*TURNING A MACHINE INTO A ZOMBIE: A MACHINE IS TURNED INTO A ZOMBIE WHEN A THIRD PARTY BREAKS INTO THE MACHINE (COMPUTER) WITHOUT THE USER REALIZING AND USES IT FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

IF WE DON'T HURRY UP AND FIX THIS, WE'RE GONNA GET SUED...
SERIOUSLY?!
IT'S TRUE! THE TAG, "FRIENDS ONLY PICTURES MADE PUBLIC" IS CURRENTLY TRENDING!
WHA..!!
UM...
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
PUNCH
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT?!
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?!
I-I'M SORRY...
YOU THINK WE'RE JUST GOING TO SIT HERE AND LET A MORALLESS CRACKER WRECK OUR SITE?!

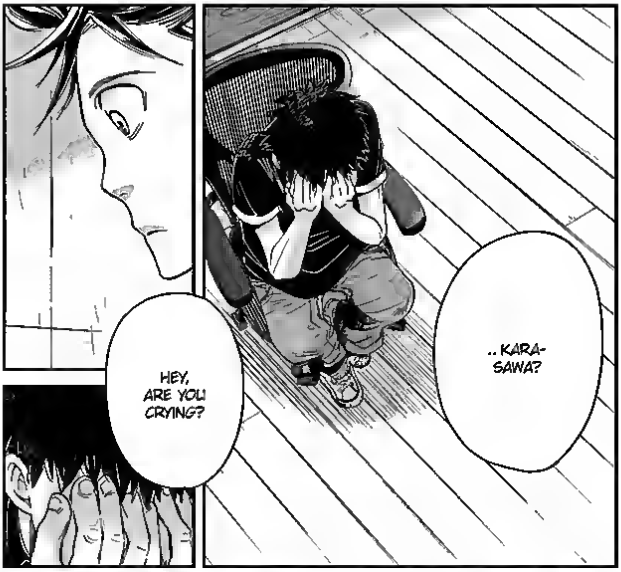
BAM
DON'T BE SO LOUD,
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS
CLICK
GRAB
WAIT, KOREEDA-KUN!
STOP!
I'LL FIX IT. I'LL FIX IT. I'LL...
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
14
NO TOUCHING.
N-

step
step
HA
RELEASE
UH...
UM
WHAT?
YOU'RE ALREADY
RUNNING AWAY?
step
step
DASH

F-FIVE YEARS AGO... THE SAME THING HAPPENED WHAT I ENDED UP DOING TO KOZAWA-KUN... IT'S THE SAME...
WHAT?
16
I'M ALWAYS TOLD THAT NO ONE UNDER-STANDS WHAT I'M SAYING.
THEY ALWAYS ASK ME, "HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!"
DON'T ACT SO SPOILED
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING A-BOUT?
I...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO W-WRECK IT . I WANT TO WORK HERE...

I CAN NEVER PROPERLY GET THROUGH
IT'S ALWAYS MY FAULT
CALM DOWN
BUT I WANT TO WORK
I UNDERSTAND
BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY

IT WAS DECIDED 300 MILLION
PHEW IT SOME-HOW WORKED OUT
DO YOU GUYS HAVE A MO-MENT?
RAISE
A VENTURE CAPITALIST CONTACTED ME AND THEY CONFIRMED THEIR INVEST-MENT
BE... REALLY?!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT!?


.. KARA-SAWA?
HEY, ARE YOU CRYING?

HIP-HIP HOORAY!
HOORAY!!
KARA-SAWA, YOU'RE THE PRESI-DENT, AIN'T YA?!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
STOP! YOU'LL MAKE US CRY TOO!

HEDGE-HOG IS...
A COM-PANY THAT WAS MADE THROUGH MY INVESTMENT MONEY.
BAM
AAH! ALRIGHT!
TODAY I'LL GO AND BUY SOMETHING OTHER THAN CUP NOODLES AS OUR BEER SNACKS!
SCREAM
KOREEDA-KUN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR CELEBRATION PARTY?
BUT VENTURE CAPITALISTS AS WELL ARE TAKING INTEREST
THEIR SERVICE CAN MAKE MONEY. THAT'S WHY NOT JUST ANGEL IN-VESTORS

IT'S FINE, IT WAS SETTLED WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS!
AH, I...
UM... I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER...
ANYWAYS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD GET THAT FAR WITH JUST INSTINCT.
NAH HE'S JUST A BORD-ERLINE CRIM-INAL
SO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AFTER ALL!
UGH
I DON'T!
BUT WOW, HE HAS SUCH GOOD INSTINCTS. GENIUS HACKERS REALLY ARE ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL!

BUT I DON'T THINK HE HAD ANY BAD INTENTIONS
ALL HE DID WAS TOUCH THE SOURCE CODE
HE PROBABLY BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE BEING ABLE TO LOOK UP EVERYTHING AT ONCE WAS MORE CONVE-NIENT
AH KOREEDA -KUN ALREADY WENT HOME?
THANK YOU FOR CEMENTING THE DEAL FOR 300 MILLION
WE'LL WORK EVEN HARDER THAN BEFORE
SO THAT WE CAN MAKE THE USERS OF OUR SITE EVEN HAPPIER
I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT

WE CAN'T USE HIM HERE.
SO, WHAT ABOUT HIM?
.....
I SEE..
23
IT'S HIS "EYES".
AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE'S A GENIUS OR BECAUSE HE'S SO PECULIAR

AND HIS STRONG ATTACHMENT FOR THE SCREEN BEFORE HIM.
THAT FIGHTING SPIRIT...
24

AS EXPECTED OF SAKAI-SAN, YOU REALLY DO FIND AMAZING PEOPLE, DON'T YOU?
YOU NEVER PLANNED ON HAVING HIM WORK UNDER US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
DID YOU?

MAN, PEOPLE WITH THAT LEVEL OF SKILL ARE REALLY HARD TO FIND
IT'S SUCH A SHAME...
HEY, KARASAWA

WE WILL FUNCTION AS OUR OWN TEAM.
THAT'S WHY I'M SORRY.

PAT
GO HAVE A TOAST, PRESIDENT

25

IT'S EXACTLY AS I EXPECTED

STEP
STEP
STEP

WHAT'S WITH YOU? WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
26
I'M... FIRED, AREN'T I ..?

CLENCH
ONE MORE TIME,
I WANTED TO PROPERLY APOLOGIZE
THEIR CODE WAS PRETTY
I COULD TELL THEY PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO IT...
I KNEW THAT THEY ALL WORKED HARD TO FINISH IT...
AND I WAS THIS CLOSE TO DESTROYING ALL OF THAT...

I ALSO..
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BE LIKE HOW THEY ARE, BUT..
..WANT TO FIND..
28
I..I WANT TO CREATE..
OH.
YOU DONE?
YEAH.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

A REASON..
A REASON TO LIVE.
I WANT TO CREATE ONE. WITH MY OWN HANDS.
IS THAT SO?

YOU KNOW, ALTHOUGH THE WORK I DO MEANS THAT I RELEASE YOU GUYS BACK INTO THE WILD AFTER TAKING CARE OF YOU FOR A FEW YEARS
WHILE I AM TAKING CARE OF YOU, MY POLICY IS TO NOT POINTLESSLY LEAD PEOPLE ON

I'LL HAVE YOU LEARN,
YOUR OWN PERSONAL WAY OF HUNTING

DING DONG
THIS IS HAYAMI FROM EVERY MORNING NEWS, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MR. SAKAI FOR AN INTERVIEW.
OF COURSE, PLEASE GO ON UP WITH THE ELEVATOR

{CODE 1:ANALYZE THIS} #2

THE WALLS HAVE HOLES IN THEM?
YES. I BOUGHT OUT THE ENTIRE BUILDING AND REFURBISHED IT.
2
I USE THIS FLOOR AS A PARK.
THE ATMOSPHERE HERE IS PRETTY GREAT, SO WHY DON'T WE JUST DO THE INTERVIEW HERE?
ZOOM

WHY?
I THEN THOUGHT OF EFFICIENT METHODS TO GET INTO A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND STARTED HITTING THE BOOKS.
I GOT FRUSTRATED WHEN I REALIZED I DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT TO KOSHIEN
DO YOU PLAY BASEBALL MR. SAKAI?
I WAS QUITE THE BASEBALL PLAYER UP UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT I GOT FED UP AND QUIT.
WHAT... WHY IS THIS USELESS KID HERE...?
NOD
OH, LATER KOREEDA
CLATTER
CLATTER
BUT, I STILL DO A FEW SWINGS NOW AND THEN WHEN I WANT TO CLEAR MY MIND
3
MR. SAKAI, AS YOU ARE A PIONEER IN THIS FIELD, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
WELL THEN... THE REASON I'M HERE TODAY IS TO ASK QUESTIONS REGARDING "ANGEL INVESTORS"... A PHENOMENON THAT IS STILL RARE IN JAPAN.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND AN "ANGEL INVESTOR" IS A WEALTHY INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES FUNDING FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES.
AND IN EXCHANGE, THEY RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE COMPANY FROM THE INVESTEE.
WOULD THAT BE CORRECT?
YES

MR. SAKAI HOW MUCH DID YOU MAKE FROM THE COMPANY GOING PUBLIC THE OTHER DAY?
VOOM
ABOUT 5 BILLION
5 BIL-LION!?

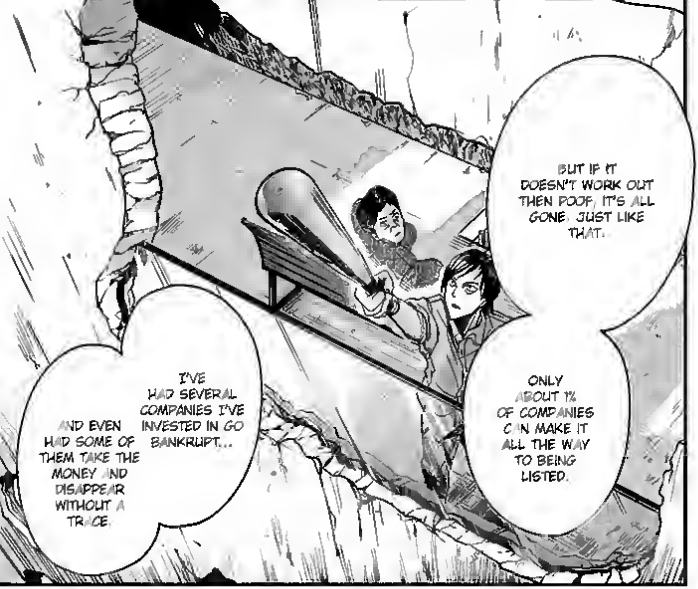
4

NO WONDER YOU COULD HOLD SUCH A FANCY PARTY LIKE THAT.
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? A COMPLETE RESERVATION OF SKY TREE?
SMILE
I WANTED TO DO MY PART IN GIVING THEM THE PUBLICITY TO SUCCEED.

FIRST OF ALL, AN ANGEL ISN'T INVESTING AS A COMPANY, BUT WITH ONE'S PERSONAL FUNDS
ALL OF IT IS MY MONEY, YOU KNOW ALL OF IT.
IS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH INVESTORS AND INVESTEES THAT INTIMATE?
WHICH IS WHY I ASSIST THEM IN NOT ONLY FUNDING, BUT ANYTHING THEY NEED EVEN IF IT IS SOMETHING LIKE DEALING WITH WOMEN

WHEN I WAS MAKING A WEBSITE FOR IMPORTING AND DISTRIBUTING NICHE FOREIGN DVDS,
I RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDING FROM MY SENIORS
THEN, 2 YEARS LATER I SOLD THE SITE ON EBAY.
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, IT WAS PURCHASED FOR 2 BILLION WASN'T IT? IT WAS QUITE THE STORY 12 YEARS AGO.
OH NO, BESIDES..

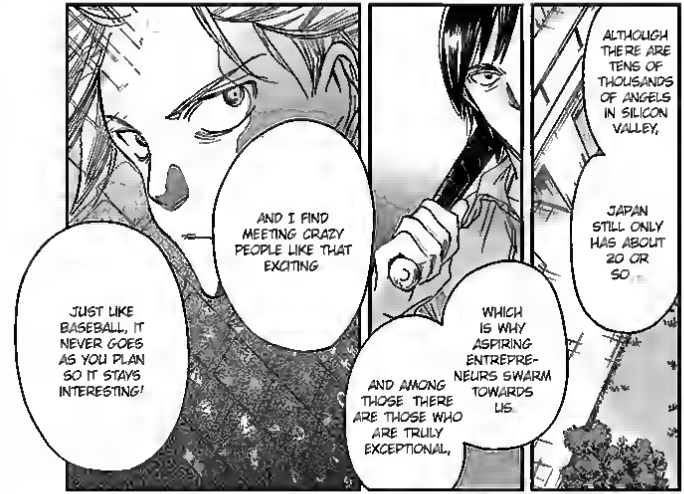
UNTIL I SOLD IT I WAS REALLY, REALLY POOR.
AFTER ALL, THE BANK WOULDN'T LEND A SINGLE YEN TO A 28 YEAR OLD GREEN-HORN LIKE ME
AND THEN THE YOUNG SAKAI, WITH 2 BILLION IN HIS POCKET, TRANS-FORMED FROM AN ENTREPRENEUR INTO AN ANGEL IN ORDER TO MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY?
WELL OF COURSE NOT.
MAKE MORE MONEY HUH... I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN THINGS LIKE THAT
clang
OH? THAT'S QUITE UNEXPECTED
I INVEST AROUND 5 TO 10 MILLION PER COMPANY
IF A COMPANY CAN MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO BEING LISTED, LIKE IT DID THIS TIME, THAT 5-10 MILLION TURNS INTO 1 BILLION
SWIF

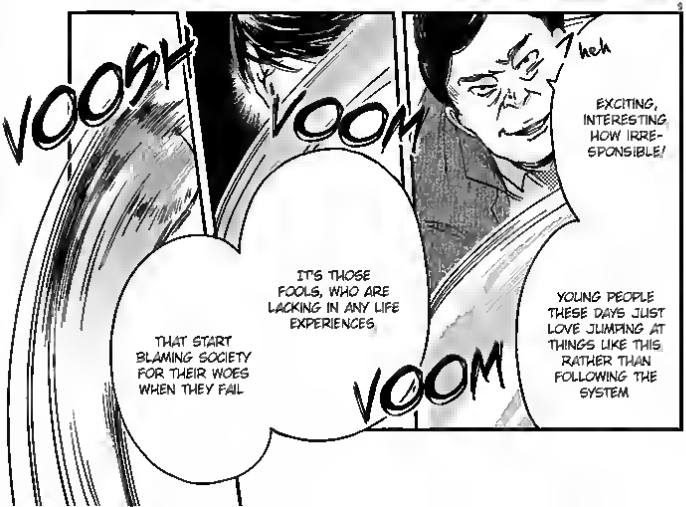

BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT THEN POOF, IT'S ALL GONE JUST LIKE THAT.
ONLY ABOUT 1% OF COMPANIES CAN MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO BEING LISTED.
I'VE HAD SEVERAL COMPANIES I'VE INVESTED IN GO BANKRUPT...
AND EVEN HAD SOME OF THEM TAKE THE MONEY AND DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS RECEIVED MONEY FROM OTHERS IN ORDER TO GET TO WHERE I AM NOW,
WHAT WOULD I BE IF I DON'T HELP OUT THOSE WHO COME AFTER ME?
THIS MAY SOUND CRAZY,
DO EXPERIENCES LIKE THAT MAKE YOU AFRAID TO TRY AGAIN?

BUT GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AND EVEN APPLE
MIGHT NOT EXIST TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR ANGELS.
RIGHT NOW JAPAN NEEDS TO EXPAND IN NEW FIELDS.

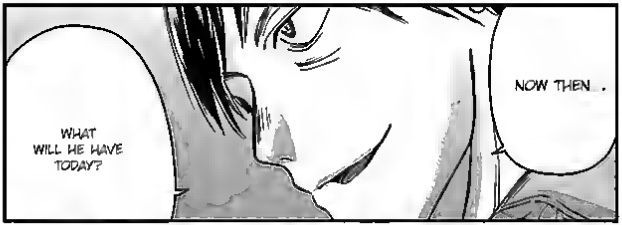
I ENJOY IT, YOU KNOW? BEING WITH PEOPLE TRYING NEW THINGS
I WANT THEM TO MAKE USE OF MY MONEY AND EXPERIENCE
GRIN
EVEN IF ALL THAT MONEY JUST GOES DOWN THE DRAIN?


ALTHOUGH THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ANGELS IN SILICON VALLEY,
JAPAN STILL ONLY HAS ABOUT 20 OR SO.
WHICH IS WHY ASPIRING ENTREPRE-NEURS SWARM TOWARDS US.
AND AMONG THOSE THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL,
AND I FIND MEETING CRAZY PEOPLE LIKE THAT EXCITING.
JUST LIKE BASEBALL, IT NEVER GOES AS YOU PLAN SO IT STAYS INTERESTING!


Tsch
EXCITING, INTERESTING, HOW IRRE-SPONSIBLE!
YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS JUST LOVE JUMPING AT THINGS LIKE THIS RATHER THAN FOLLOWING THE SYSTEM.
VOOSH
VOOM
VOOM
IT'S THOSE FOOLS, WHO ARE LACKING IN ANY LIFE EXPERIENCES,
THAT START BLAMING SOCIETY FOR THEIR WOES WHEN THEY FAIL.

GLANCK
Whiff
THERE IS NO ONE OF THAT SORT WHO I'VE INVESTED IN
WHEN THEY FAIL I WILL CRACK THEIR SKULLS AND LET THEM DIE
Gulp
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, MAKE SURE TO WRITE A BIG ARTICLE IN YOUR PAPER
WE'RE PUTTING OUR LIVES ON THE LINE WHILE DOING THIS. SO WHETHER WE SUCCEED OR FAIL, IT WILL BE DECIDED BY OUR HANDS

AAH... THAT WAS IMMATURE OF ME
SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT TO THE BAT...
CLINK

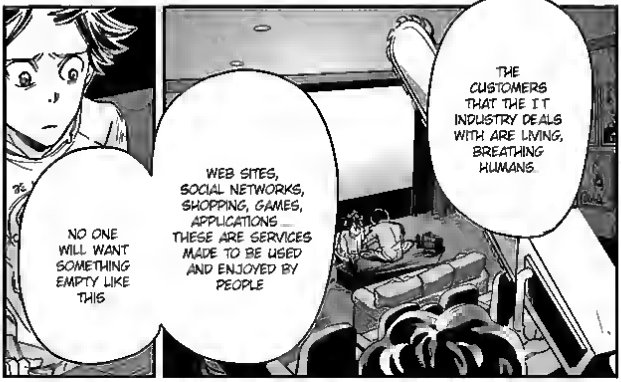

NOW THEN...
WHAT WILL WE HAVE TODAY?

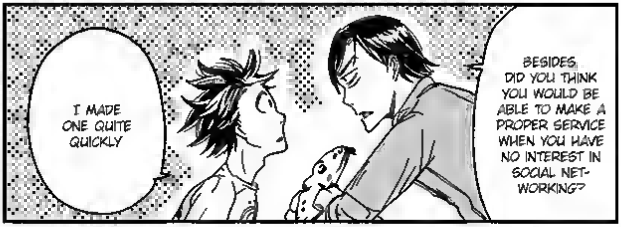
LIVING DEAD
BORING...
BORING... BORING!!
WERE YOU NOT LISTENING TO ME AGAIN?
I-I LISTENED

THEN WHY ARE ALL OF YOUR IDEAS,
ABSOLUTE CRAP!!

12

Bash
Bash
SO WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
DID YOU REALLY PUT ANY THOUGHT INTO THIS!?
THIS IS JUST A RIP-OFF OF KARASAWA'S SERVICE!
I TOLD YOU TO START BY PITCHING ANYTHING YOU WANTED TO DO


THE CUSTOMERS THAT THE I T INDUSTRY DEALS WITH ARE LIVING, BREATHING HUMANS.
WEB SITES, SOCIAL NETWORKS, SHOPPING, GAMES, APPLICATIONS ... THESE ARE SERVICES MADE TO BE USED AND ENJOYED BY PEOPLE
NO ONE WILL WANT SOMETHING EMPTY LIKE THIS

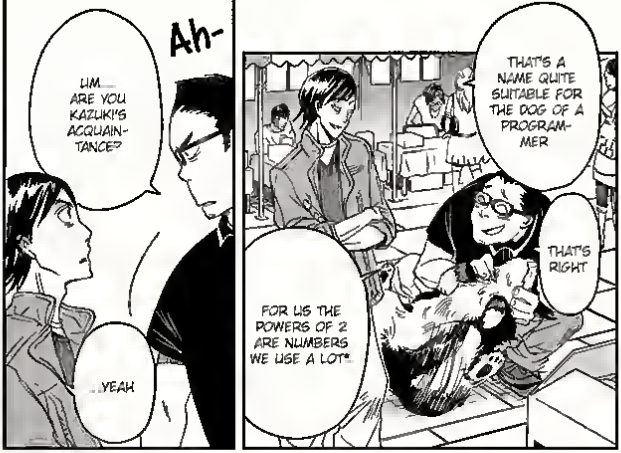

BESIDES, DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A PROPER SERVICE WHEN YOU HAVE NO INTEREST IN SOCIAL NET-WORKING?
I MADE ONE QUITE QUICKLY

SNAP
...I TOLD YOU TO LEARN YOUR OWN STYLE OF HUNTING...
BUT FIRST,

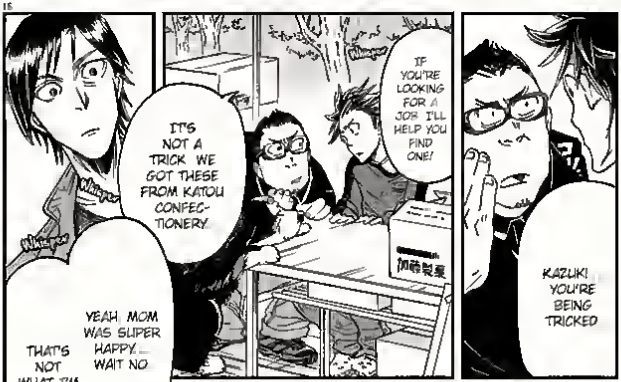
14

*TN: KAMINARI OKOSHI IS A SWEET SNACK THAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES A RICE KRISPIE

SERI-OUSLY!!
WHY ARE YOU DOING SOME-THING LIKE A VENDOR!?
15
STOMP
STOMP
GORILLA-KUN
KAZUKI WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
TEXTING ME OUT OF THE BLUE AND NOW THIS!
WOOF
WOOF
He's huge...
OOH 256! HOW ARE YA?
Scratch
Scratch
YOU'RE BUSHY AS EVER
SO THE DOG'S NAME IS "256"?


Ah-
UM... ARE YOU KAZUKI'S ACQUAINTANCE?
...YEAH
THAT'S A NAME QUITE SUITABLE FOR THE DOG OF A PROGRAMMER
THAT'S RIGHT
FOR US THE POWERS OF 2 ARE NUMBERS WE USE A LOT*.

15


IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A JOB, I'LL HELP YOU FIND ONE!
KAZUKI, YOU'RE BEING TRICKED
IT'S NOT A TRICK. WE GOT THESE FROM KATOU CONFECTIONERY.
YEAH, MOM WAS SUPER HAPPY... WAIT, NO
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...

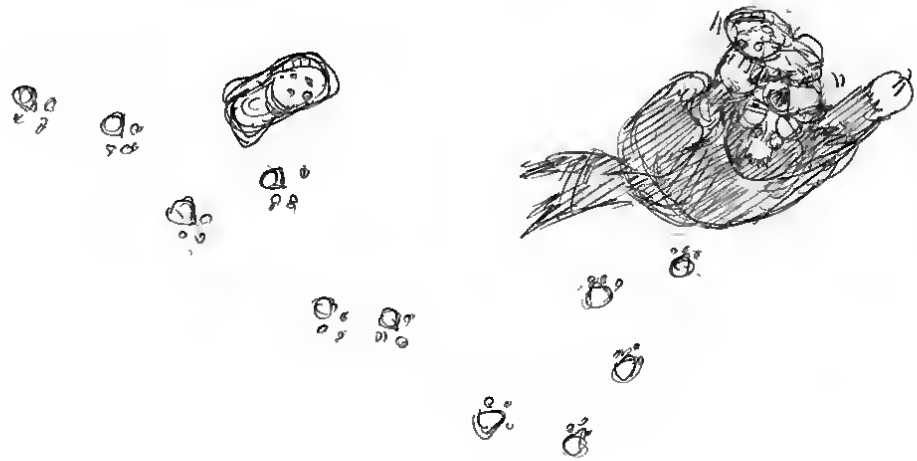
*TN: POWERS OF 2 REFERS TO NUMBERS LIKE 2, 4, 8, 16, 32. NUMBERS RISEN WITH BASE 2. COMPUTERS CALCULATE USING BASE 2, SO NAMING SOMETHING WITH BASE 2 IS QUITE FITTING

WE'VE BEEN COMPUTER BUDS SINCE HE WAS A KID
MY NAME IS KATOU.
HE'S FROM MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD... HE'S 26
MIND IF I ASK? WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?
HEY...
Really man?

17

DUDE, AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?
MANIPULATING A KID LIKE THIS.
KAZUKI QUIT BEING STUBBORN AND LIVE WITH US.
MOM SAYS THAT IF IT'S YOU, THEN YOU'RE WELCOME TO LIVE WITH US.

I DECIDED TO SELL THESE BY MY OWN HANDS AND FOR MY OWN SAKE...
YOU...!!
COME ON LET'S GO
YOU'RE PROBABLY STARVING...
PWIP
YOU'RE A REALLY CARING FRIEND...
KATOU,
KINDNESS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL THING...
BUT, IT CAN ALSO KILL A PERSON

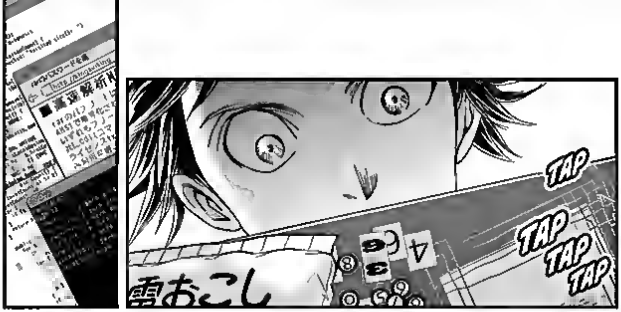


HA
HA
HA
HEY KOREEDA! YOU SMELL LIKE SHIT!
HOW ABOUT WE WASH YOUR HAIR FOR YOU!?
FSHH

Flick

数論入門
TN: TITLES OF THE BOOKS ON MANGA READING ORDER: "PUZZLE COLLECTION, INTRODUCTION TO NUMBER THEORY, BRAIN GYMNASTICS, PUZZLE HEAVEN, CRACKING THE CODE.

WHIRRR

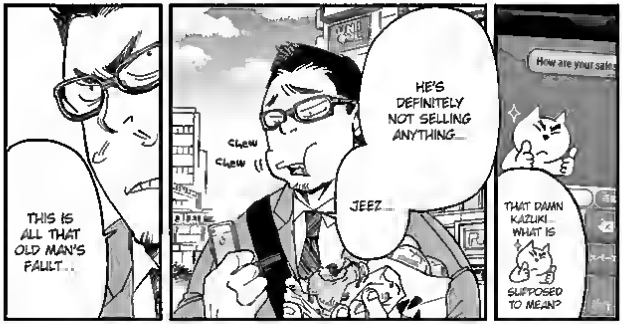

TAP
TAP TAP TAP
雷おこし

HEY~
6th Ueno Park Sweets Festival
IS IT POSSIBLE TO BUY THESE KAMINARI OKOSHI IN SEPARATE PACKAGES?
UGHH UHHH...
WHAA...

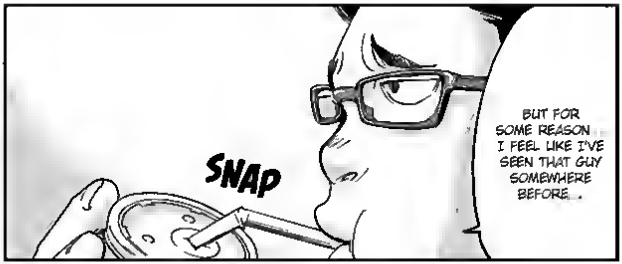
NEVER-MIND
WHAT? DO YOU EVEN WANT TO SELL THEM?
S-
SORRY
Rustle
Rustle
AT THIS RATE, THINGS WILL END UP LIKE THEY DID AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE...

SQUEEEEZE
THAT BASTARD KOREEDA,
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WROTE ALL OVER THE MIRRORS TOO...
ISN'T KOREEDA WORKING AT THE SNACK STAND RIGHT NOW?
AREN'T THESE EQUATIONS HIS SALES CALCULATIONS?
...I SEE. SO HE FELL FOR THE TRAP JUST AS I PREDICTED.
OH NO... WHENEVER MR. SAKAI MAKES THAT FACE, IT MEANS HE'S PLOTTING SOMETHING

WHAT KOREEDA NEEDS IS TO FIND HIMSELF
BY SELLING SOMETHING THAT HE HIMSELF IS MOTIVATED TO SELL,
HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTAIN AMBITIONS THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED BY LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS ALONE
Ok
fir
Sa


THIS IS ALL THAT OLD MAN'S FAULT..
CHEW CHEW
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT SELLING ANYTHING...
JEEZ...
How are your sales
THAT DAMN KAZUKI... WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

SLUUURRP
CRUSH
THAT GUY LAUGHED WHEN HE LOOKED OVER AT ME! PISSES ME OFF!
HE LISTENS TO WHAT THAT FISHY OLD MAN SAYS!
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NEVER INTERESTED WHEN I TOLD HIM I'D HELP HIM FIND A JOB,
thunk
thunk
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THAT KAZUKI!!


SNAP
BUT FOR SOME REASON I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THAT GUY SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

OH! THE RESULTS ARE OUT?
A HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMING CONTEST!
I'M BACK!
KATOU LOOK!

AND A PRIZE!
WOW, THE SECTION CHIEF'S DAUGHTER!! BACK IN MY DAY WHEN I'D ENTER THES—

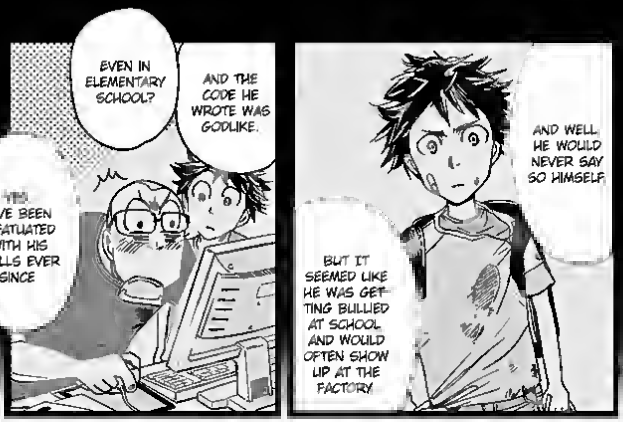
Twitter
Mentioned by @tsuyoGOR!:
@sakaiin It's Koreeda's friend Katou. I'm sorry for my behavior the other day. I didn't know you were THE Sakai Daisuke.
Whew...
Crap. All of a sudden I feel really nervous. Hug
F-FOOD?
@sakaiin
Supporting the programming conference
Angel Investor
Sakai Daisuke
Mentioned by @sakaiin
@ tsuyoGOR! No problem Katou, would you have time to grab some food today?

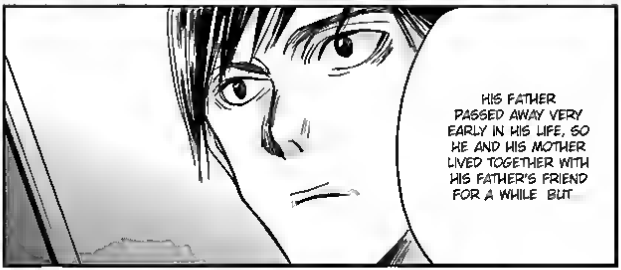
Well, not like I have anything other than cheap suits but...
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO COME IN DRESSED LIKED THIS?
KATOU! THIS WAY!
I'M SORRY FOR MY RUDENESS THE LAST TIME WE MET. TO THINK YOU WERE THAT SAKAI...
YES, SIR.
I'LL JUST HAVE A BEER
SAME FOR ME
Champagne
Brut Royal ¥9,000
Brut L-J ¥10,0
Brut Premier ¥12,
Brut L-P
Premier
NO NO, IT'S FINE, I WASN'T EXACTLY POLITE EITHER. ALLOW ME TO TREAT YOU TO THIS MEAL AS AN APOLOGY
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DRINK?
I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE MENU.
NOW, SORRY TO DO THIS SO SUDDENLY, BUT I HAVE A QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU
WHAT IS IT?

AS YOU KNOW, I'M AN ANGEL INVESTOR
AND I PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON KOREEDA'S TALENT
I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHO KOREEDA KAZUKI IS IN ADVANCE
IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS AS YOU'RE AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK HIM YOURSELF?
IF THAT'S YOUR ADVICE, THEN THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO
SAKAI-SAN...WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KOREEDA?

HE'S 18, A HIGHSCHOOL DROPOUT, AND LIVING IN A DVD RENTAL STORE
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, AND HE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY HACKER, THAT'S ABOUT ALL.
SIGH
WELL, I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, BUT...

WHEN I MET KAZUKI, HE WAS IN THIRD GRADE AND I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
WE WERE BOTH FISHING FOR COMPUTER PARTS AT A NEARBY FACTORY'S GARBAGE DUMP
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'RE EXPECTING TO HEAR.


EVEN IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
AND THE CODE HE WROTE WAS GODLIKE.
I'VE BEEN INFATUATED WITH HIS SKILLS EVER SINCE
AND WELL, HE WOULD NEVER SAY SO HIMSELF.
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS GETTING BULLIED AT SCHOOL AND WOULD OFTEN SHOW UP AT THE FACTORY


HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY VERY EARLY IN HIS LIFE, SO HE AND HIS MOTHER LIVED TOGETHER WITH HIS FATHER'S FRIEND FOR A WHILE. BUT

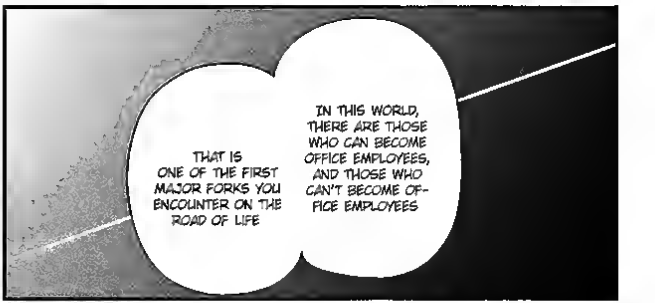
RIGHT AFTER REMARRYING HIM, HIS MOTHER LEFT THEM,
LEAVING THE TWO OF THEM, KOREEDA AND HIS STEP-FATHER, MAKI, TO LIVE TOGETHER.

HE DOESN'T TALK ABOUT HIS PARENTS AT ALL, SO THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW.
WHEN WE MET, HE WAS ALREADY LIVING THE WAY HE DOES NOW.
HOWEVER, MAKI RECENTLY PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY, AND THE DVD RENTAL STORE HE WAS STAYING AT WAS ALSO GOING TO BE CLOSED .
DID YOU SEE HIS LAPTOP?
YEAH THAT OLD THINKPAD, RIGHT?
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS THAT KAZUKI IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY TASK RELATED TO COMPUTERS WITH EASE,
HIS KEY-BOARD IS SO WORN OUT THAT THE LETTERS ON THEM CAN'T EVEN BE READ ANY-MORE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

WITHOUT HIS COMPUTER, HE ISN'T ABLE TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE PROPERLY
HE LEARNED HOW TO USE A PC TO TRY TO HELP OUT AT THE DVD RENTAL STORE
BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO CREATE A "REASON" FOR HIS PRESENCE THERE

HE DIDN'T DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL DUE TO A LACK OF TALENT
TO HIM, HIS COMPUTER IS HIS REASON FOR LIVING
IT'S PRETTY DIFFICULT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT GOES ON IN HIS MIND, BUT

WITH ALL THAT, I THINK HE'S BEEN HAVING A TOUGH TIME UP UNTIL NOW
SO PLEASE DON'T START SOMETHING WITH HIM THAT YOU DON'T PLAN ON SEEING THROUGH TO THE END


IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAN BECOME OFFICE EMPLOYEES, AND THOSE WHO CAN'T BECOME OFFICE EMPLOYEES
THAT IS ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR FORKS YOU ENCOUNTER ON THE ROAD OF LIFE

14

WH-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JUST LISTEN
WHEN WE SAY "HUMANS WHO CAN'T BECOME EMPLOYEES" WE BASICALLY MEAN PEOPLE WHO CAN'T WORK BENEATH OTHER PEOPLE
START UPS ARE ABSOLUTELY FULL OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS. AFTER HEARING ABOUT HIS LIFE FROM YOU, I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND
KOREEDA CAN ONLY SEE THE SECOND OPTION
TO A GUY LIKE ME,
THAT WAY OF LIFE SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM
HUMANS WHO CAN'T EVEN HAVE A CONVERSATION WITHOUT A COMPUTER,
SURE ARE INTERESTING AREN'T THEY!
15
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT KID WAS BORN?
IN WHAT WAY?!
CLANK
WHA-!
clattering

IT WASN'T TO JUST PLAY AROUND WITH COMPUTERS.
ALL THE ATYPICAL EXPERIENCES HE HAS HAD UP TO THIS POINT,
WITHOUT A DOUBT BESTOWED UPON HIM AN INVISIBLE GIFT
WILL HE BE ABLE TO DISCOVER AND MAKE USE OF THAT GIFT?

HE WILL BE THE ONE WHO DECIDES THE WORTH OF HIS OWN LIFE

D'AWWWW
!?
I'M SO SORRY FOR GLARING AT YOU BEFORE! YOU'RE ACTUALLY A REALLY GOOD PERSON AREN'T YOU
sniffle
HEY NOW DON'T CRY
sniffle
NOT REALLY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CALLED THE "ANGEL" WHO ACTS LIKE A "DEVIL"!
VIBR VIBR VIBR

COME ON, EAT! IT WOULD BE A REAL WASTE IF WE DIDN'T EAT THIS PLACE'S FOOD
OF COURSE! BUT STILL, THAT KID IS REALLY HARD TO DEAL WITH!
YEAH..
HE'S STUBBORN AND HE CAN BEHAVE PRETTY STRANGE-LY..
YEAH-HHH..
DIDN'T YOU GET A CALL FROM YOUR COMPANY A MOMENT AGO?

OH SHIT!
IT WAS KAZUKI! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER CALLED ME!!
YES?
Take the call

Call ended
WHAT DID KOREEDA CALL YOU FOR?

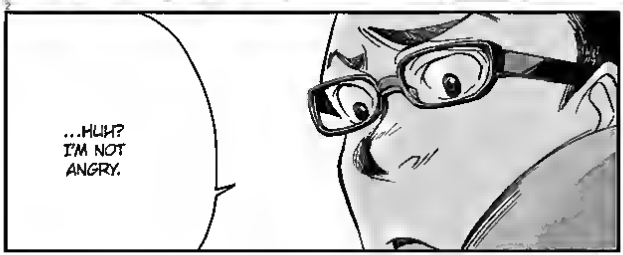
KAZUKI I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN, OK?
HUH? OH. WAIT? POL-ICE?!
WAIT, WHAT?

18

I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS SAYING BUT .
—THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER ASKED ME FOR A FAVOR

WOOF
IF YOU DON'T GET OUT RIGHT NOW, I'LL DRAG YOU TO THE POLICE STATION!
6th Ueno park Sweets Festival
WOOF
HEY!!
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM...
WHOA!
HEY!! STOP!!
GRRRR
WOOF WOOF
KAZUKI... WHAT'S GOING ON...
!?
GRAB
ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BOOTH? WE'VE BEEN GETTING TONS OF COMPLAINTS YOU KNOW!
I'M REALLY SORRY! HAS HE DONE SOMETHING WRONG?
YIP YIP

THANK GOD IT'S YOU, GORILLA-KUN.
I WAS JUST RANDOMLY PRESSING BUTTONS ON MY PHONE IN A DAZE ..AND IT ENDED UP CONNECTING TO YOU. ARE YOU ANGRY?
{CODE 1:ANALYZE THIS} #4


...HUH? I'M NOT ANGRY.

UH, HEY KAZUKI... WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

BESIDES, YOUR PHONE...
...ONLY HAS MY CONTACT IN IT, SO OF COURSE IT WOULD CONNECT TO ME

WHOA! HOLD ON KAZUKI, CALM DOWN FOR A SEC!
I WASH HIM AFTER ALL!
HUH?
AH
I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF 256 FOR 9 YEARS!

OH, I'M SO SORRY! I'LL TAKE IT HOME WITH ME RIGHT NOW!
SAYING THIS DOG IS UNSANITARY
YEAH, WE KNOW WE'VE RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM THE OTHER STALLS...
UM... SO WELL... HE'S THE OWNER OF THIS DOG BUT...

OH NO! I WOULDN'T EVEN DREAM OF IT! AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE WAS IN THE POLICE ACADEMY, AND JUST LISTENING TO HIS STORIES MADE MY MUSCLES FEEL SORE...
YOU KNOW A LOT ARE YOU LOOKING TO BECOME A COP?
AND HAVE NIGHT SHIFTS THAT LAST UNTIL 10 IN THE MORNING...
BUT REALLY, YOUR JOB MUST BE ROUGH HUH!
Ahhhh...
GRRRR
YOU GOTTA DEAL WITH WEIRDOS LIKE HIM,

MAN, DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.
STILL, I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T RUN AWAY...
KAZUKI... YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE 25G AWAY, DIDN'T YOU?
Ahahaha
You're pretty big. Do you play sports?
No

...THIS WAS...
...SOMETHING I COULDN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP
I'LL DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME.
I SEE... THANKS FOR HELPING TO SELL MY FAMILY'S SNACKS.

I'LL MAKE SURE TO FEED 256, SO DON'T WORRY!
IF THE GUYS AT THE FACTORY HEARD ABOUT HOW HARD YOU WORKED TRYING TO SELL THESE, I'M SURE IT'D BRING THEM TO TEARS!

GOU KATOU
DAISUKE SAKAI
SUBJECT
THIS IS KATOU
THE THING WITH KAZUKI WASN'T A BIG DEAL
SORRY ABOUT DINNER
THANK YOU
KATOU

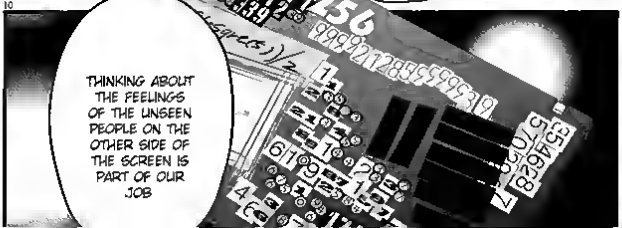
Kaminari Okoshi on sale
Last Day!!

I'M COMING IN..
VD
TOTAL SALES: 21 SETS WERE SOLD, FOR A TOTAL OF 6300 YEN
97.9% WERE UNABLE TO BE SOLD
SO, HOW WAS IT?

I FAILED.
I WAS JUST SITTING THERE
I COULDN'T EVEN SAY, "WELCOME"
I REALLY AM HOPELESS
Crinkle
AREN'T CUSTOMERS SCARY?

CUSTOMERS DON'T ACT IN THE SAME WAYS AS ALGORITHMS
WHETHER YOU'RE SELLING KAMINARI OKOSHI ON THE STREETS OR DEVELOPING A WEB SERVICE IN THE I.T. INDUSTRY,
THE PEOPLE YOU'RE DEALING WITH ARE LIVING, BREATHING HUMANS

HOW CONVENIENT THE PEOPLE USING YOUR PRODUCT CONSIDER IT
HOW MUCH YOUR PRODUCT CAN BE USED TO HELP PEOPLE
HOW MUCH YOUR PRODUCT CAN EXCITE PEOPLE


THINKING ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF THE UNSEEN PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN IS PART OF OUR JOB

EVEN IF YOU ARE A GENIUS HACKER, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE DRIVE TO WANT YOUR PRODUCT TO SELL, THEN YOU WON'T SUCCEED!
Argh
LOOK,
I can't keep up...
UH-HUH...
BAM
DO YOU HAVE THAT DRIVE?!
I WANT TO SELL MY PRODUCT!
DO YOU EVEN LIKE KAMINARI OKOSHI?!
I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THIS ABOUT MY PRODUCT!
G-GORILLA-KUN'S FAMILY MAKES THEM...

BUT WHETHER I WANT TO SELL THEM... OR IF I LIKE THEM...
THAT.. I'M NOT SO SURE.
...HUH?
I WAS HAPPY THAT HE... ...TOLD ME "THANK YOU"...
THEN, WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
12
Ha...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO "LIKE" SOMETHING...
AS LONG AS I HAVE 256 AND MY PC, I'M
UH UM NOTHING REALLY

AHAHAHAHA
Flinch
SO THERE ISN'T ANYTHING YOU LIKE!
SORRY.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TRY TO ADAPT THE CONCEPTS USED FOR REGULAR ENTREPRENEURS TO YOU.
I SEE... SO DESPITE HAVING SUCH INCREDIBLE SKILL, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY AMBITION.

.....
DON'T
DON'T GIVE UP ON ME JUST YET...

DON'T OVERESTIMATE YOUR SKILLS IF I DON'T SEE POTENTIAL,
WE'RE DONE.
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR I'M NOT YOUR FATHER
"THIS" IS THE BOND THAT CONNECTS THE TWO OF US.
FLOP
OK.
SOME KAMI-NARI OKO-SHI
.....
...WHAT'S WRONG!?
I'M HUNGRY.

WELL THEN, I'LL BE GOING NOW
HEY SAKAI-SAN...
RIGHT
YOU...
FOR THE NEXT 89 DAYS, I'LL BE LIVING OFF 11 BAGS OF KAMINARI OKOSHI A DAY...
THANK YOU.

YES...
WE'RE GOING TO GO RIGHT BACK AT IT STARTING TOMORROW. GOT THAT?
WE MEET AT 10! DON'T BE LATE!
WHAT'S UP KATOU-KUN...
SORRY ABOUT DINNER. HOW ABOUT WE SCHEDULE A MAKEUP?
Y-YOUR WORDS JUST NOW...
Sniff Sniff
Ring Ding
DAWWWW
WHOA!!

COME OVER TO MY PLACE NEXT TIME
FOR REAL?!

I'M BAAACK

3 DAYS LATER

HOW WAS THE INTERVIEW?
NO GOOD

Knock Knock
UM... SAKAI-SAN?
TATATATAP

Minora's gonna die
HOW MANY HAVE WE GONE THROUGH THIS MONTH? ISN'T THERE ANYONE WE CAN USE IN THIS TIME OF NEED?
I WANT SUPER-COMPUTER KOREEDA! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE RISKS, I WANT HIM HERE NOW!!
YEAH... I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. WELL IT SEEMS THAT SAKAI-SAN'S TRIAL PERIOD HAS ENDED SO...

TATATATATAP
WA-WA-WA-WA-WOAH!
GONK
UGH!
YOU! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF?!
Voom
Voom
Voom
WHOA.
18
THAT GUY!! HE WENT AND STARTED CRACKING AGAIN!
WHY YOU...
BE YOUR SELF

{CODE 1:ANALYZE THIS} #5

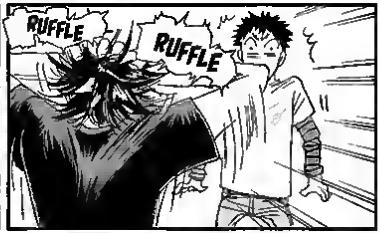
KORE-EDA!
NEXT TIME YOU PULL SOME SHIT LIKE THAT, I'LL FIRE YOU!
WHY CAN'T YOU FOCUS?!
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE SO MUCH SKILL!!
MR. SAKAI
THUMP
WHAT THE HECK DID KOREEDA DO?

2

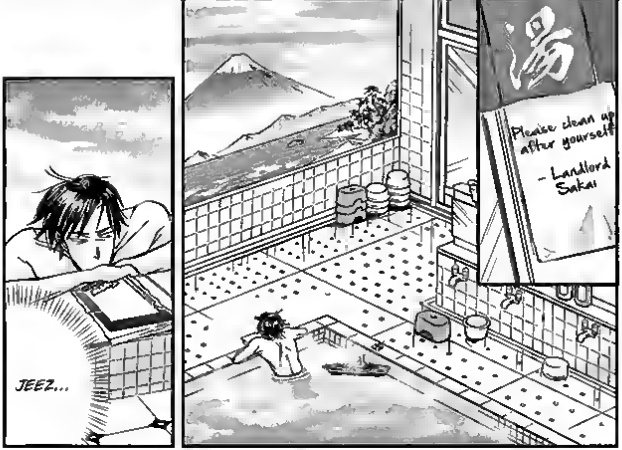
THAT KID,
ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WANTED TO FIND HIS OWN PURPOSE IN LIFE.
HE HONESTLY COULDN'T THINK OF ONE THING IN FACT.

PEEKING AT USELESS PERSONAL INFORMATION OF SOME BORING COMPANY NOBODY HAS EVER HEARD OF BEFORE... EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL IS SO FUN ABOUT THAT?
HE JUST FALLS BACK TO CRACKING AGAIN...

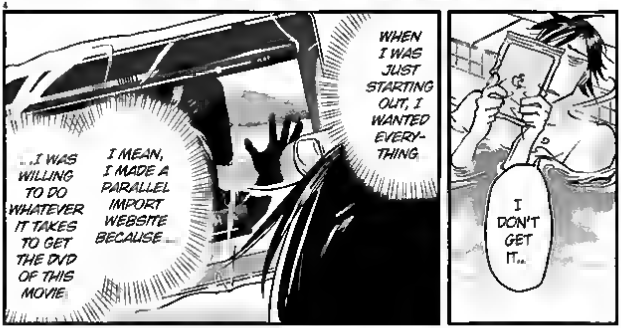
I'M GONNA GO TAKE A BATH ON THE ROOF, I'LL BE BACK...


RUFFLE
RUFFLE

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SAKAI-SAN LIKE THIS...


JEEZ...
Please clean up after yourself
- Landlord Sakai

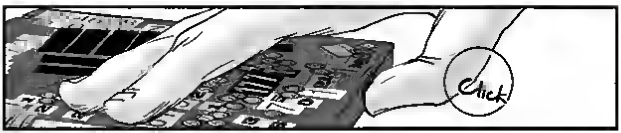
WHY WON'T HE SHOW ME HIS TRUE SELF...
WHAT HE WANTS TO DO, WHAT HE REALLY LIKES...


...I WAS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THE DVD OF THIS MOVIE.
I MEAN, I MADE A PARALLEL IMPORT WEBSITE BECAUSE...
WHEN I WAS JUST STARTING OUT, I WANTED EVERY-THING.
I DON'T GET IT...

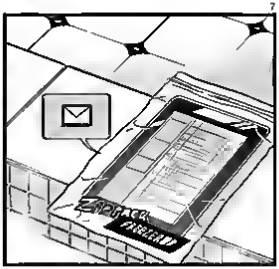
I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING NOW?
THAT REALLY PISSED OFF MY GIRLFRIEND BACK THEN...
BACK WHEN I WATCHED THIS I GOT SO SUCKED INTO THE STORY THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE DATE I HAD PLANNED
...WAIT.
MAYBE HE'S THE SAME?

WHY...
EDA,
KOREEDA
KAZUKI!!
DA
EDA
"OH!, I
DIDN'T
HEAR
YOU!"
SERIOUSLY...
THIS GUY...
Gap
Gap
Hahahaha
OH...
I DIDN'T
HEAR
YOU...

ARE YOU STUPID?
WHY IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE SUCH AN EYESORE!
LEARN TO READ YOUR SURROUNDINGS!
I WONDER WHY HE'S SO HOPELESS.
KOREEDA, STARTING TOMORROW YOU DON'T NEED TO COME ANY MORE.
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TRYING TO SAY?


Click

7


ENROLLMENT
PASSED

SPLASH
SPLOOSH
IF THIS IS REALLY KOREEDA'S WORK...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
VRRRRRRR
SAKAI-SAN!
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS? WAIT, DON'T TELL ME THAT THIS IS...
YEAH, PROBABLY.
HE WAS IN THE COURT-YARD EARLIER
DO YOU KNOW WHERE KOREEDA IS?
THE GOVERNMENT BUREAU'S HP'S ARE BEING ALTERED ONE AFTER ANOTHER,
THIS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY BAD ISN'T IT. .

DING
THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS MASTERED BOTH
ENGINEERING "HACKING" AND DESTROYING "CRACKING" TO SUCH A DEGREE...
...AMONG EVERYONE WE KNOW IN OUR INDUSTRY, IS KOREEDA.
EVEN YOU GUYS HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?
OF COURSE NOT.
THIS...
IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN CRACKING ON THIS SCALE...
Thump-Thump
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? CREATORS "HACKERS" AND DESTROYERS "CRACKERS" ARE DIFFERENT.
9
AMONG HACKERS LIKE US WHO CREATE WEB SERVICES AND STUFF,
THERE ARE OF COURSE PEOPLE WHO DO BAD THINGS JUST FOR FUN AS WELL BUT...
THERE HE IS! IT WAS HIM AFTER ALL...
KOREEDA! STOP!
KOOSH

CLANK

PLEASE, DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

Thud

LET'S HEAR AN EXPLA-NATION

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW IF YOU CAN'T, THEN—

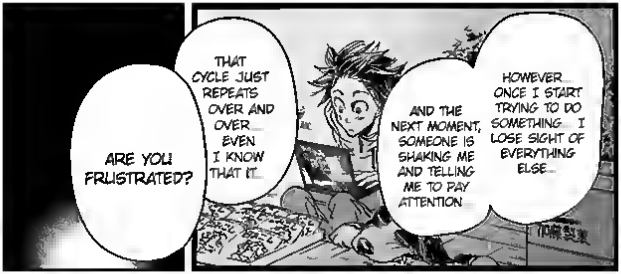
...I'LL HAND YOU OVER TO THE POLICE.

!?!?!?!?!
Y..
YOUR HAIR IS A MESS...

I... I CAN'T EVEN DO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE .. CAN DO NORMALLY...
I'M.. I'M JUST AN IDIOT.. A-AFTER ALL.. I.. I DON'T THINK EVEN I... KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO...

12

I'M SORRY... I WANT TO STOP BUT
BECAUSE... ALL I EVER DO... IS CRACK... SAKAI-SAN'S HAIR.. IS A MESS..


ARE YOU FRUSTRATED?
THAT CYCLE JUST REPEATS OVER AND OVER... EVEN I KNOW THAT IT...
AND THE NEXT MOMENT, SOMEONE IS SHAKING ME AND TELLING ME TO PAY ATTENTION...
HOWEVER... ONCE I START TRYING TO DO SOMETHING... I LOSE SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE...

YOU'RE FRUSTRATED AREN'T YOU? THAT THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO
.....?

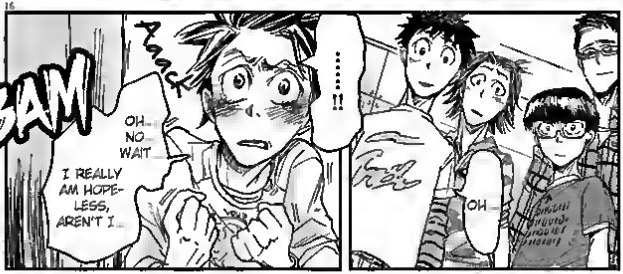
SPEAK.
PROB-ABLY...
.....
THE REASON YOU START NEEDLESSLY CRACKING IS BECAUSE YOU'RE IRRITATED WITH YOURSELF, ISN'T IT?
.....

IS CRACKING, ISN'T IT? YOU ENJOY THE HIGH YOU GET FROM BREAKING THE LAW DON'T YOU?
I DON'T LIKE CRACKING.
.....
THUMP
IN OTHER WORDS THE THING THAT YOU REALLY LIKE...
I JUST SIMPLY ENJOY SOLVING PROBLEMS...
C-CRACKING AND HACKING ARE THE SAME THING...
...AH!

THAT'S IT! THE MORE DIFFICULT THE CHALLENGE, THE MORE EXCITED I GET.
AFTER CLEARING ONE, I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT... AND THE NEXT AFTER THAT... AND IF I GET STUCK, THEN I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
THE FEELING I GET WHEN I SOLVE A PROBLEM IS INCOMPARABLE
THAT'S WHY IF I PICK SOMETHING UP, I CAN'T PUT IT BACK DOWN UNTIL I'VE SOLVED IT. DURING THAT TIME, I'M NO LONGER HERE.
I'M FREE... LOST IN MY OWN WORLD.
THOSE ARE THE ONLY MOMENTS THAT I...

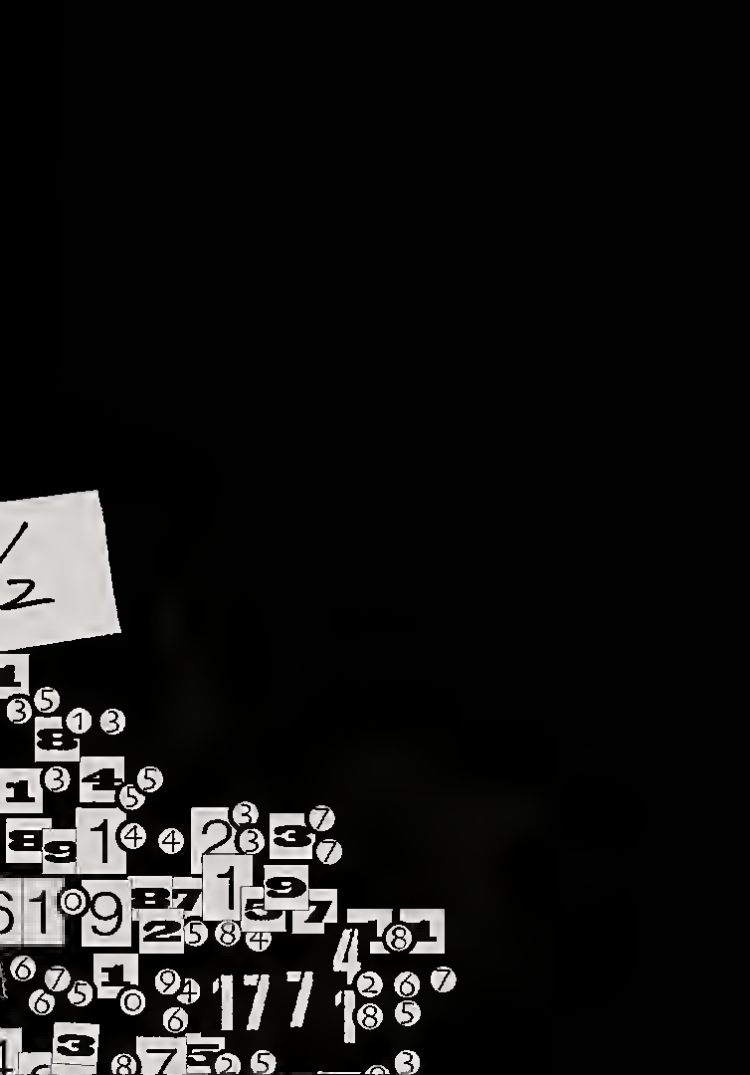
...AM ABLE TO MOVE FREELY, THE WAY I WANT,
UNCHAINED BY REALITY.
BE YOUR

16


BAM
Aaack
OH... NO... WAIT...
I REALLY AM HOPE-LESS, AREN'T I...
.....!!
OH...

IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, THEN THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE ISN'T IT?
YOU'VE FOUND IT.
THE THING THAT YOU SHOULD BE PURSUING.
WAIT, SAKAI-SAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO ?!
YOU'RE STILL PLAN-NING ON CALLING THE POLICE?
HOLD UP!
KOREEDA... IF...
UHM-MM...
LET'S GO. KOREEDA, FOLLOW ME
UHM-MM...
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SAKAI-SAN?

KOREEDA, I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU START A "CRACKING COMPANY."
WHA-...
WHA AAA-
-AAA ATT?!



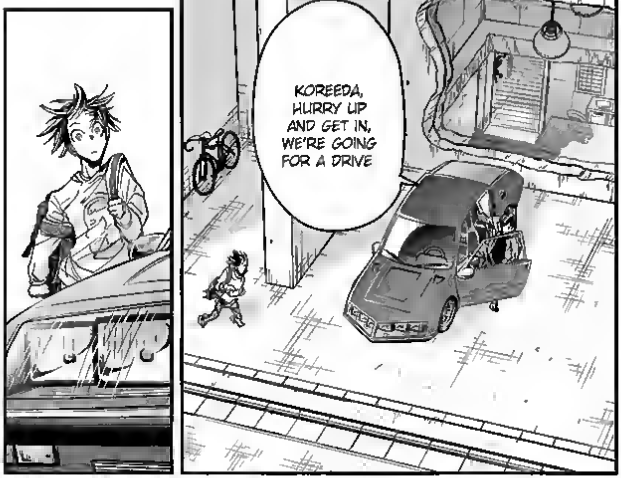
{CODE 2:THINGS TO COME} #1

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE KOREEDA-KUN RUN A "CRACKING COMPANY"?
S-SAKAI-SAN?
KOREEDA...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS SAYING IT WAS AGAINST THE LAW...
HAVE HIM CREATE A RESPECTABLE SERVICE INSTEAD!!
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING?!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, THEN THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE,

WE NEED TO LET TAMAYAMA-SAN KNOW!
THIS IS BAD!!
8F
(株)ゲームヒット
WHAP
BOSS!! WE'VE GOT A SERIOUS PROB-LEM...
Do not disturb
BUM
BUM
TAMA-SAN!

3

There's a suspicious log in the firewall!
We're being hacked!


KOREEDA, HURRY UP AND GET IN, WE'RE GOING FOR A DRIVE

MAKI-SAN...
UHM... DAD STEPFATHER...

I...
I LOST MY SLIPPERS...

YOU SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THAT EARLIER.
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING TODAY, WITH NO SLIPPERS?
I'M... I'M SOR-RY...
YOU TAKE WAY TOO MUCH TIME NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE DOING WHETHER IT BE EATING OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU DO.
...I'M SOR-RY...
HUH?
IT'S MAMA.
MAMA'S HERE!
OH JEEZ!
I'M HEAD-ING OUT...
YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED YOUR FOOD.
YOU CAN GO AFTER YOU CLEAN YOUR DISHES.
IF YOU WANT ME TO GET BACK IN THE CAR,
THEN SAY PLEASE!

MAMA!
GOOD MORNING
A DIFFERENT GUY AGAIN
Slam
AH KAZUKI! GOOD MORNING~!
GOOD MOR—
ARE YOU HEADING TO SCHOOL? IN THAT CASE I'LL TAKE YOU PART WAY THER—
EW!! WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOUR BACKPACK?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
OH THIS... I UHMM... DID IT MYSELF
WHO DID THIS!? TELL MAMA! I WON'T LET ANYONE WHO DOES THIS TO MY KAZUKI GET AWAY WITH IT!!

OH! I HAVE A GREAT IDEA! HOW ABOUT YOU SKIP BORING OLD SCHOOL TODAY, AND WE CAN GO FOR A DRIVE!!
HOW ABOUT IT? "MY LITTLE BOY GENIUS."
HEY, KOREEDA ARE YOU LISTENING?
EDA,

RIGHT NOW WE'RE HEADED TO ONE OF THE COMPANIES I'VE INVESTED IN.
IT'S A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY CALLED "GAME BEAT". IT WAS FOUNDED 6 YEARS AGO AND HAS 11 EMPLOYEES.
MY BAD... I WASN'T...
YES...
I'M NOT GONNA SAY IT A THIRD TIME, GOT IT?

GAME BIT
DESPITE MOST COMPANIES IN THIS DAY AND AGE STICKING TO SPECIALIZED GAMING CONSOLES THEY ARE MAKING A DOWNLOAD-TYPE GAME SOFTWARE
THEY FOUND TRACES OF SOMEONE ILLEGALLY ACCESSING THEIR COMPANY'S SERVER
THEY'VE JUST RECENTLY RELEASED THEIR SECOND PRODUCT.
REMEMBER THIS WELL—TO A COMPANY THE TIME RIGHT AFTER A RELEASE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT

IF THEY MESS UP NOW, HEADS WILL FLY.
SKRT
Clunk
ALL 14 OF THEM.

HOLY CRAP!
A REAL LIFE MISATO* CAR!
TL NOTE: HE'S DRIVING THE SAME CAR AS MISATO FROM EVANGELION.
PRESIDENT TAMAYAMA! SAKAI-SAN IS HERE!
MOVE! YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
THE PRESIDENT, TAMAYAMA IS... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT
HE HAS THE HABIT OF...
TAP TAP TAP TAP
YA'LL TOOK YOUR GOD DAMN SWEET TIME!
YA DAMN UPSTART OLD MAN!
YO, TAMAYAMA! I FIND IT QUITE RELIEVING THAT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES

KOREEDA, WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION
THIS IS YOUR TIME TO SHINE. YOU'RE GOING TO FIND A WAY TO FIX THEIR SERVER.
GLARE
I...
I CAN'T.

OH COME ON.
SAKAI-SAN YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME THAT "THIS" GUY IS THE "MESSIAH" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, BRINGING SOME USELESS BRAT HERE...
ARE YOU ABOUT TO JUDGE SOMEONE BASED ON THEIR APPEARANCE?
UM SER...
NO, I THINK THERE'S A MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WITH THIS GUY...
SER...

"MY LITTLE"
"BOY GENIUS"
I'M NOT A G-GENIUS.
I'M SORRY, BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A GENIUS THEY ARE, THERE IS NO PLACE FOR WEAKLINGS IN MY WORK-PLACE.
I CAN VOUCH FOR KOREEDA'S SKILLS
YOU CAN JUDGE HIM AFTER YOU'VE GIVEN HIM A CHANCE
I'M JUST...
A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT.
BE YOUR
THIS ISN'T A JOB FOR SOME HALF-ASSED KID...
GO HOME
ALL THE MORE REASON I DON'T NEED YA

UNTIL NOW I'VE ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT CRACKING ATTACKING
BE-BECAUSE ATTACKING AND PROTECTING ARE DIFFERENT CRACKING AND HACKING ARE...
KOREEDA, WHY DO YOU THINK YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS?

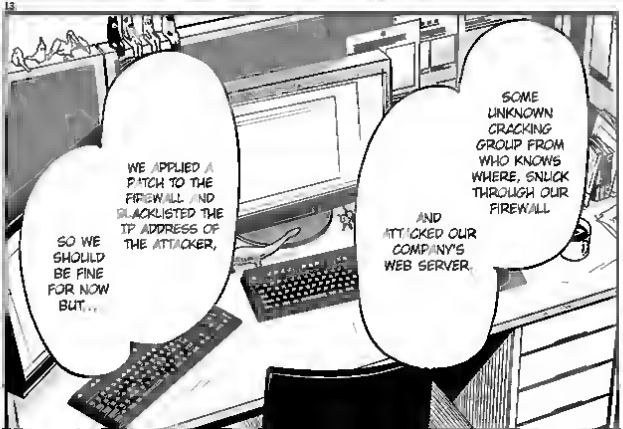
SO? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST PROTECT BY ATTACKING?

TAMA-SAN, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE TALKING TO SAKAI-SAN LIKE THAT.
WHAT GOOD IS THERE IN TELLING HIM? IN THE END YOU GUYS ARE JUST A LOAN SHARK AND SOME DEFECTIVE KID
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME. HIS FOUL MOUTH IS SOMETHING I'M WELL AWARE OF.

TAMAYAMA, GET KOREEDA UP TO SPEED ON YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE THIS MATTER ISN'T YOURS ALONE TO HANDLE

YELLING ABOUT THINGS IS ONE OF HIS TRADEMARKS
THE MORE HE RUNS HIS MOUTH, THE BETTER THE END PRODUCT HE PRODUCES

WE DISCOVERED THE ANOMALY THIS MORNING
Clench

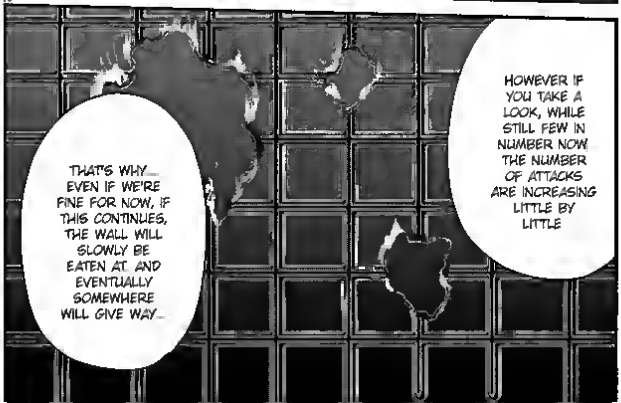

SOME UNKNOWN CRACKING GROUP FROM WHO KNOWS WHERE, SNUCK THROUGH OUR FIREWALL AND ATTACKED OUR COMPANY'S WEB SERVER.
WE APPLIED A PATCH TO THE FIREWALL AND BLACKLISTED THE IP ADDRESS OF THE ATTACKER.
SO WE SHOULD BE FINE FOR NOW BUT...

I SEE...
BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS...
THIS IS A SMALL COMPANY THAT HAS BARELY RELEASED THEIR SECOND PRODUCT. WHAT WAS THEIR OBJECTIVE?
KOREEDA...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, THEN SAY IT YOURSELF
UHM...
THE ATTACKS. HAVEN'T STOPPED!
える

THE NUMBER OF ADDRESSES LAUNCHING ATTACKS ARE INCREASING...
WHA-

INTERNET
A FIREWALL IS A WALL
IT'S MEANT TO PROTECT THE SERVER FROM THE NET


HOWEVER IF YOU TAKE A LOOK, WHILE STILL FEW IN NUMBER NOW THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS ARE INCREASING LITTLE BY LITTLE
THAT'S WHY... EVEN IF WE'RE FINE FOR NOW, IF THIS CONTINUES, THE WALL WILL SLOWLY BE EATEN AT AND EVENTUALLY SOMEWHERE WILL GIVE WAY...

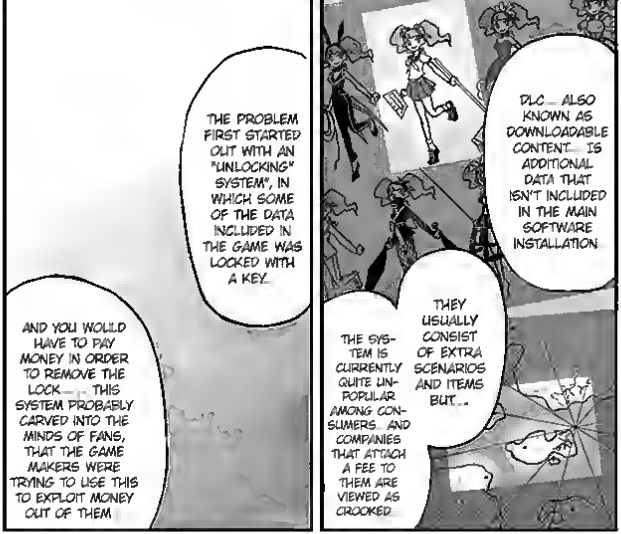
ARE WE REALLY NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL?
WAIT!! ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?!!
TAMAYAMA-SAN! WE'VE FIGURED IT OUT!
YOU

DID YOU SAY, .DLC?
HA... HAHAHA... HAHAHAHA

IT SEEMS LIKE A STATEMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED!
THE REASON BEHIND THE ATTACK WAS A "CRITICISM OF THE DLC SYSTEM"!
THERE WAS A PERSONAL INFORMATION LEAK, 4 MAJOR COMPANIES ARE ABOUT TO AIR A PRESS CONFERENCE!!

17

ダウンロードソフト
I SEE... SO THE REASON OUR SERVER IS BEING ATTACKED IS BECAUSE OF DLC..
WHAT'S WRONG WITH DLC?
MAN...


THE PROBLEM FIRST STARTED OUT WITH AN "UNLOCKING" SYSTEM", IN WHICH SOME OF THE DATA INCLUDED IN THE GAME WAS LOCKED WITH A KEY.
AND YOU WOULD HAVE TO PAY MONEY IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE LOCK..... THIS SYSTEM PROBABLY CARVED INTO THE MINDS OF FANS, THAT THE GAME MAKERS WERE TRYING TO USE THIS TO EXPLOIT MONEY OUT OF THEM
DLC... ALSO KNOWN AS DOWNLOADABLE CONTENT... IS ADDITIONAL DATA THAT ISN'T INCLUDED IN THE MAIN SOFTWARE INSTALLATION
THEY USUALLY CONSIST OF EXTRA SCENARIOS AND ITEMS BUT...
THE SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY QUITE UNPOPULAR AMONG CONSUMERS... AND COMPANIES THAT ATTACH A FEE TO THEM ARE VIEWED AS CROOKED.

TAMA-SAN, WHAT HAPPENED? SUDDENLY YOU...
HOWEVER FOR SMALL COMPANIES LIKE US, WE HAVE TO ATTACH DLC IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

YEAH YEAH I GET IT BUT...
SO I'M SURE OUR CUSTOM-ERS UNDER-STAND!
WE CREATE HIGH QUALITY CONTENT!
WE'RE NOT TRYING TO EXPLOIT PEOPLE WITH OUR DLC!

WITH THIS... OUR COMPANY...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO— ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT
SAKAI-SAN, I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS
BUT WE ARE GOING TO DIE!

SAKAI-SAN, I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THIS,
BUT WE ARE GOING TO DIE!

PRESI-DENT! PLEASE WAIT!
IT'S NOT GUARAN-TEED THAT WE'LL GO BANKRUPT YET!

4F
Game Beat
WITH THIS, WE ARE DONE FOR
2F

RIGHT NOW WE'RE COMPLETELY HELPLESS AGAINST THE GUYS DEVOURING OUR SERVERS
THE PROBLEM WITH THESE TYPES OF GUYS IS THAT FOR EVERY ONE WE TAKE DOWN MORE JUST SPRING UP TO TAKE THEIR PLACE
THESE FUCKERS ARE TRAMPLING ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF OTHER PEOPLE!
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN DO IT IN PERSON! NOT FROM BEHIND THE SAFETY OF ANONYMITY

BUT

2

ALL WE REALLY WANTED WAS FOR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE ATTACKING US RIGHT NOW, TO PLAY OUR GAME
Matter

5 YEARS AGO I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MEET SAKAI-SAN AND RECEIVE AN INVESTMENT
AND WITH THAT INVESTMENT WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT THIS FAR

EVERY SINGLE YEAR THE COMPANY WOULD FACE A CRISIS THAT COULD'VE SHUT IT DOWN FOR GOOD...
BUT WE STILL BELIEVED THAT WE WERE TRULY BLESSED BECAUSE WE WERE ABLE TO CREATE OUR OWN SOFTWARE AT OUR OWN COMPANY, RATHER THAN WORK AS SUBCONTRACTORS FOR SOMEONE ELSE
"I'M DAMN TIRED OF MAKING GAMES WHERE YOU JUST RUN AROUND AND KILL STUFF BY MASHING THE A BUTTON!"
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WILLING TO LISTEN TO MY LONG RANTS WITHOUT INTERRUPTING...
...AND IN SPITE OF ALL THAT...

I'M SORRY!!

RAISE YOUR HEAD TAMA-YAMA
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU WHEN WE FIRST STARTED OUT?
WHETHER IT IS GOING UP, OR GOING DOWN, WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.
WE'RE RIDING ABOARD THE SAME BOAT!

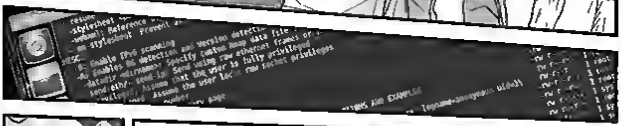
THE
THE ATTACKERS
IF IT'S OK TO JUST CRUSH THE ATTACKERS
THEN PLEASE
PLEASE USE ME

CRUSH... LOOK EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO THE ATTACKERS ARE PROBABLY CONNECTING VIA PROXY FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD YOU KNOW?
MUM-MM...
SO THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THEM.
WHY ?
WH...
W-WHY IS THAT A PROBLEM?
IN THE BEGINNING WHEN I REFUSED UHM
YOU SAID THAT UHMM IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE WHY ? WHY I SAID I COULDN'T...
N-NO. THAT'S NOT RIGHT... UM...
WAIT DON'T TELL ME ?
AH... THAT...
WILL YOU ALLOW ME... TO DO IT?

QUIT BEING SO INDIRECT AND GET TO IT ALREADY!!
GRRRR
OF COURSE!!!
OF COURSE YOU'RE ALLOWED TO!!!
BAM
I WONDER IF THAT KID IS GOING TO TRY TO COUNTER HACK THEM?
HOLY SHIT IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN A MOVIE
BUZZ OFF!
FWOOM
HOW'S THE KID SUPPOSED TO FOCUS?!
Stagger
Stagger

IT'S OKAY TAMAYAMA, LET THEM WATCH

IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN HEAR US ANYMORE ANYWAYS.



FIRST I HAVE TO ANALYZE THE FIREWALL'S LOG, THEN SEND A PING REQUEST TO THAT MACHINE'S IP

THE ATTACKER IS PROBABLY USING A PROXY SERVER ISN'T HE...? IF HE IS, I'LL HAVE TO ANALYZE THE PROXY'S LOG, AND CONTINUE TRACKING FROM THERE... I CAN PROBABLY JUST WRITE A PROGRAM TO AUTOMATE THAT WORK...

WHICH IT COMPANY DID YOU PULL THIS ONE FROM?
A DVD RENTAL STORE
WHA?
UH UHMM !!
NO...
UHH I CRACKED THE SERVER AND GOT THE IP ADDRESS... BUT UHM... AFTER
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHAT IS IT KOREEDA? TELL US.

ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT??
YOU THINK WE'RE JUST GOING TO SIT HERE AND LET A MORALESS HACKER WRECK OUR SITE?!
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME...
...WHAT IT IS YOU WANT ME TO DO

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY THIS TIME YOU SHOULD JUST DO WHAT YOU SEE FIT.
HOWEVER, TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING WHILE YOU DO IT SO YOU DON'T DO ANY-THING TOO CRAZY
IF IT'S POSSIBLE...
I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS TO THEM.

In life, there are no save points
Click
Tremble
NO!
DON'T LOOK AT ME
UHMM...!!
.....?
IN THAT CASE, I'M HANDING OVER THIS COMPANY'S CUSTOMER INFORMATION.

BLUSH
I'M GOING TO MAKE A FAKE FILE AND UH...
THE REAL CUSTOMER INFORMATION IS STORED ON THE MACHINE... BUT IT WON'T BE UPLOADED ONTO THE SERVER
NO WAIT...!! I MADE A MISTAKE...WAIT UHM, I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE!

12

I GUESS I SHOULD'VE JUST SAID THAT HUH...
YOU DON'T KNOW? A HONEYPOT IS A SERVER PLACED ON TOP OF THE NET IN ORDER TO PURPOSEFULLY MAKE INFILTRATION EASIER AND LURE IN ATTACKERS!
WHAT'S A HONEYPOT AGAIN?
I MEAN, SOMETHING LIKE A HONEYPOT RIGHT?
IS "TRAP" THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
HUH?

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO KOREEDA?
R-RIGHT... I'LL SET UP A HONEY-POT
TA... TAMAYAMA-SAN, THE HACKERS' GOAL WAS TO LEAK THE CUS-TOMER INFORM-ATION OF EACH OF THE GAMING COMPANIES RIGHT?
YEAH THEY DID SAY THAT IN THEIR ANNOUNCE-MENT DIDN'T THEY?
SO IF WE MAKE A FILE THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE CUSTOMER INFORMATION FILE...
WE CAN SET IT UP ON THE FAKE SERVER AND OBSERVE THE ENEMY
CUSTOMER INFORMATION

AND REEL THEM IN WITH THE BAIT?
YES IF THE ENEMY OPENS THE FILE IT WILL MAKE A BACK DOOR
AND IF WE CAN MAKE A BACK DOOR WE CAN DESTROY THE ENEMY'S PC FROM THERE...

BY "ALRIGHT" YOU MEAN SOMEONE TOOK THE BAIT?
I'M GOING TO TAKE OVER THIS COMPANY'S COMPUTER NOW
YES, ONE

ALRIGHT...
Boop

OH YOU MEAN YOU CAN BE TRACED
IF YOU USE A CHAT PROGRAM LIKE SKYPE...THEN YOU NEED TO MAKE AN ACCOUNT WHICH CAN BE KIND OF PROBLEMATIC SO
WELL UHM, IT'S A CHAT PROGRAM
HUH? IRC?

WHAT?!
I'M GOING TO INFILTRATE THE CRACKER GROUP'S CHATROOM
THEY'RE PROBABLY USING IRC

14

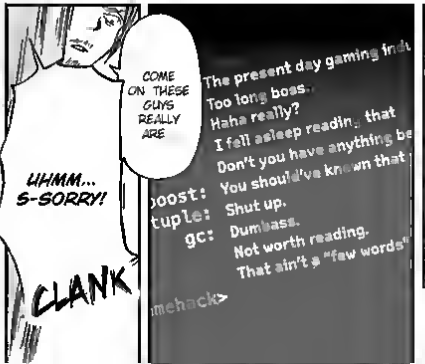
SO, KOREEDA. EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH THAT PC OF YOURS?
SLAM

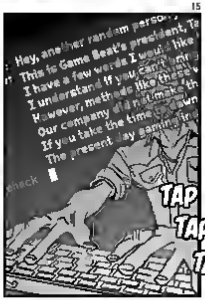
*** Welcome to the freen
(IRC)> /join #gamehack
*** You have joined cha
*** Users on #gamehack:
boost: where?
gc: Game Heat
boost: Seriously?
gc: That company i
too... A lot of c
kfree: Shitty DLC, and
gc: The wrath of h
upon rotten ca
mehack>
...YEAH.
OH, THERE THEY ARE! TAKAYAMA-SAN, PLEASE JOIN THE CHAT ROOM.

SAKAI-SAN, DIDN'T YOU TELL ME TO DEFEND BY ATTACKING?
THERE'S NO POINT IN DESTROYING THE MACHINE OF A SINGLE CRACKER, AS THAT CHANGES NOTHING.
WHICH IS WHY I'M GOING TO FIND WHO THE PERPETRATOR IS THROUGH THIS CHAT ROOM.
BE YOU3

CONTINUE.

OH DO YOU SEE WHERE I'M-
MORE OR LESS.


COME ON THESE GUYS REALLY ARE
UHMM... S-SORRY!
CLANK
The present day gaming indu
Too long boss.
Haha really?
I fell asleep readin, that
Don't you have anything be
You should've known that
oost:
tuple:
gc:
Shut up.
Dumbass.
Not worth reading.
That ain't a "few words"
mehack>


Hey, another random perso
This is Game Beat's president, Ta
I have a few words I would like
I understand if you can't
However, methods like these
Our company of a nationwide
If you take the time
The present day gaming
mehack
TAP
TAP
TAP

WELL...
ARE YOU APOLOGIZING, KID..?
WHY

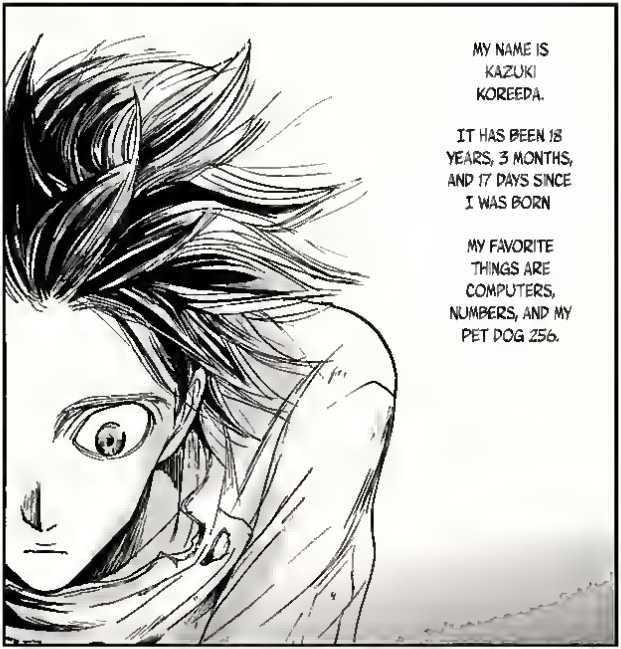
KOREEDA...
BECAUSE THAT WAS ME.

UH...
YES SIR.
STOP SAYING POINTLESS THINGS AND GET BACK TO WORK
zero_: If you don't shut it I'll infect you with a virus.
infect you with a virus.
lockfree: The hell? Guess it wasn't the president aft
boost: I'd like to see you try lol.
17
The fact that you're prattling on about spreading a virus just because you managed to get in here is giving me cancer.
Fucking amateurs everywhere.

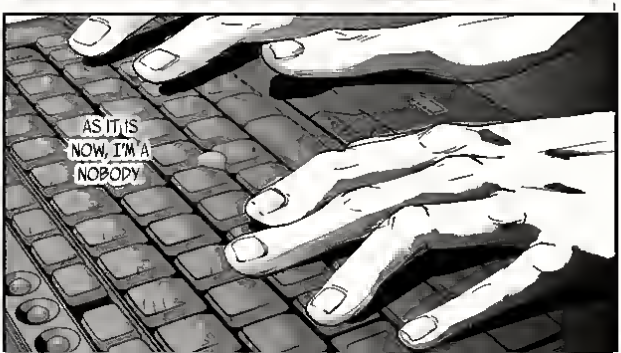
gc: how fucking half assed can you be, You're overestimating yourself way too much.

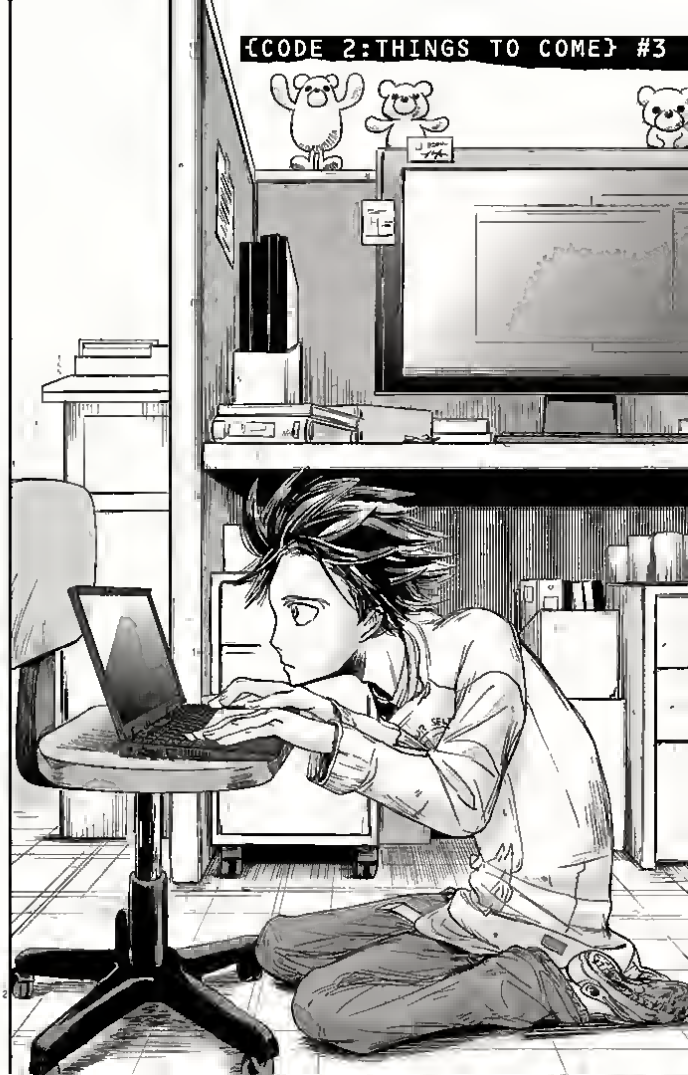
valkyrja: anonymous wannabe

anonymous wannabe


MY NAME IS KAZUKI KOREEDA.
IT HAS BEEN 18 YEARS, 3 MONTHS, AND 17 DAYS SINCE I WAS BORN
MY FAVORITE THINGS ARE COMPUTERS, NUMBERS, AND MY PET DOG 256.

1


AS IT IS NOW, I'M A NOBODY


{CODE 2:THINGS TO COME} #3

YOU OKAY KID?
YOU KINDA JUST FELL ALL SILENT ALL OF THE SUDDEN...
I REALLY HATED THAT FEELING, SO I WOULD COUNT PRIME NUMBERS OR THINK ABOUT 256 TO CALM DOWN.
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, MY FACE WOULD TURN BRIGHT RED WHENEVER I WAS EMBARRASSED
SHE TOLD ME A JOKE, WENT OFF, AND SIMPLY NEVER RETURNED.
EVEN ON THE DAY SHE LEFT US, SHE ACTED AS THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER DAY.
SHE WOULD ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO GET ME TO LAUGH AND FEEL BETTER.
MOM IS QUITE A LIVELY PERSON

HOW COULD I? AFTER ALL, I'M JUST A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT INCAPABLE OF DOING A SINGLE THING PROPERLY.
THERE WAS MY MOTHER WHO WOULD CALL ME HER "LITTLE GENIUS"... AND THERE WAS MAKI-SAN WHO WOULDN'T EVEN LOOK ME IN THE EYES... I REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EITHER OF THEM...
I THINK HE ONLY RAISED ME BECAUSE HE FELT HE HAD TO.
MY STEP DAD MAKI-SAN ALWAYS HAS THIS SCARY LOOK ON HIS FACE...WE DON'T TALK VERY MUCH.
IT DIDN'T ACT LIKE IT WAS BETTER THAN ME, IT DIDN'T LIE, AND IT DIDN'T TRY TO DRAW ON MY BACK.
HOWEVER THE COMPUTER MAKI-SAN BOUGHT FOR ME WHEN I WAS 10 WAS DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE I HAD EVER MET BEFORE.
IT WAS THE FRIEND I WAS CONNECTED TO, JOINED BY A "" RELATIONSHIP.
IT JUST GAVE ME BACK WHAT I PUT INTO IT.

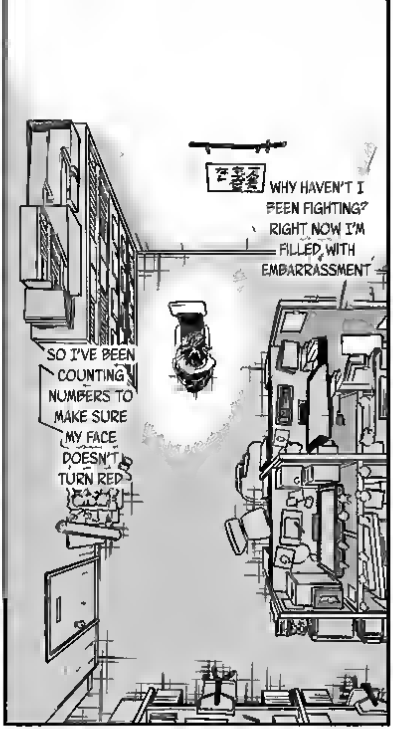
820
TO UNDERSTAND ME MORE AND MORE
I WANTED IT TO COMPREHEND ME,
DVD

ALL OF THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE SPENT THEIR TIME FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING.
SO I SPENT ALL OF MY TIME SITTING IN FRONT OF IT.

I BELIEVE THAT GORILLA-KUN, AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD PASS BY THE DVD STORE WERE LIKE THAT TOO
BE YOUR SELF
FOR THE SAKE OF THEMSELVES.
FOR THE SAKE SOMEONE,
FOR THE SAKE OF SOMETHING.

Click

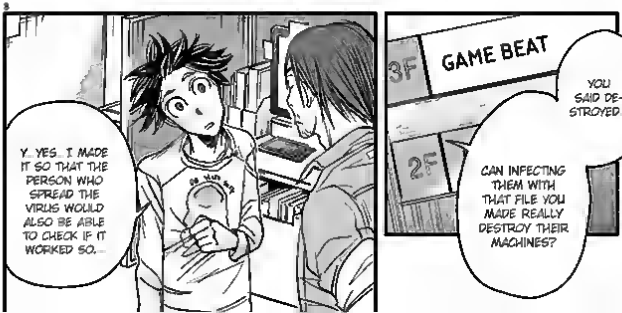
H-HEY,
YOU'RE DONE ALREADY? IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ONE MINUTE!!


WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN FIGHTING? RIGHT NOW I'M FILLED WITH EMBARRASSMENT
SO I'VE BEEN COUNTING NUMBERS TO MAKE SURE MY FACE DOESN'T TURN RED

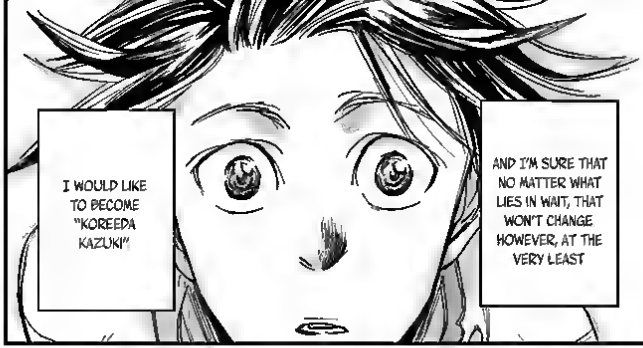
TAMAYAMA-SAN, THE IRC ROOM YOU WERE IN WAS AN OPEN CHANNEL

SINCE THEY THOUGHT THAT I WAS THE SAME TYPE OF TRASH AS THEY WERE, I SPREAD A VIRUS TO THE IP ADDRESSES THAT WERE IN BOTH CHAT ROOMS
AND DESTROYED THEM
IN ADDITION TO THAT CHANNEL, THERE WAS ANOTHER CLOSED IRC CHANNEL THAT WAS BEING USED TO COORDINATE CYBER ATTACKS
SINCE I WANTED TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY, I TALKED WITH THEM THROUGH THE OPEN IRC CHANNEL
THERE WERE 18 MACHINES IN TOTAL.

WHICH STUPID IDIOT...
...LET THIS GUY IN?
THANKS TO THAT IDIOT, EVEN MY MACHINES HAVE BEEN INFECTED
You're under arrest!
JEEZ
...THEY SHOULD JUST DIE ALREADY


Y...YES... I MADE IT SO THAT THE PERSON WHO SPREAD THE VIRUS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO CHECK IF IT WORKED SO...
3F
GAME BEAT
2F
YOU SAID DE-STROYED...
CAN INFECTING THEM WITH THAT FILE YOU MADE REALLY DESTROY THEIR MACHINES?

DID I... DID I OVER DO IT? OR DID I NOT GO FAR ENOUGH ?
WITH THIS WE SHOULD BE FINE FOR A...
OH!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT BUT IT SOUNDS AMAZING
WHA.
SOR-
GRAB
I'M A NOBODY.
THANK YOU KOREEDA-KUN!!


I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME "KOREEDA KAZUKI"
AND I'M SURE THAT NO MATTER WHAT LIES IN WAIT, THAT WON'T CHANGE HOWEVER, AT THE VERY LEAST

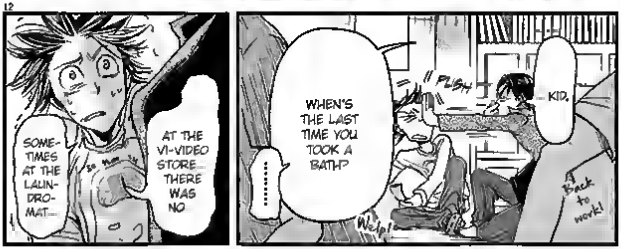
BOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
TH-

WELL IT'S ALL GOOD ANYWAY
RIGHT!
NO I'M NOT...
YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRDO AREN'T YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU THANKING US?

AS THANKS, HERE'S MY MOST TREASURED ITEM (DS)
MAKE SURE TO PLAY SOME OF OUR GAMES WITH IT.
FEELS GOOD DOESN'T IT KOREEDA?
YOUR FIRST REWARD
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TH-THA-THANK YOU VERY MUCH
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

Sniff
TO CELEBRATE YOUR FIRST JOB WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO GET SOME BARBEQUE?
YE-S SIR
YE-
HEY GET IT TOGETHER IT'S OVER NOW

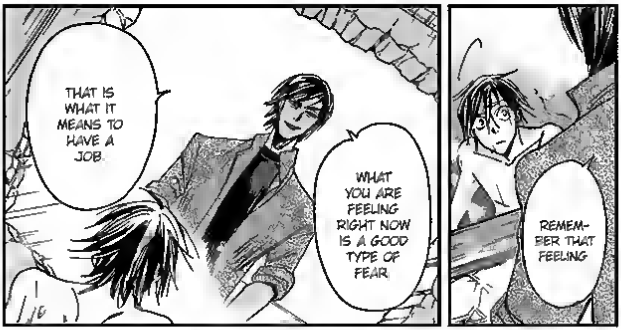
12


SOME-TIMES AT THE LAUN-DRO-MAT...
AT THE VI-VIDEO STORE... THERE WAS NO
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU TOOK A BATH?
PUSH
KID.
Back to work!
Welp!

FWOOSH
SPLASH
OPEN AIR BATH AVAILABLE PUBLIC BATH CURRENTLY BEING CLEANED.

Gasp
JEEZ! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE OKAY WITH GOING OUT IN PUBLIC LIKE THAT!
THERE HAS TO BE LIMITS TO HOW MUCH OF A SCATTER-BRAIN YOU CAN BE!
I-I DON'T DO WELL WITH WATER.
Tremble
Tremble
13
IT'S NOT JUST THE WATER, IS IT?
WHATS GOT YOU SO ON EDGE?
TO...

I WAS REALLY SCARED TODAY
UP TILL NOW I'VE ONLY WHATEVER I WANTED TO DO
I COULD'VE BROKEN EVEN THOUGH THEY BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE


REMEMBER THAT FEELING
WHAT YOU ARE FEELING RIGHT NOW IS A GOOD TYPE OF FEAR
THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A JOB

14

.....
WHAT IS IT NOW?
THAT WAS A JOB?
I MEAN THAT? I BARELY HAD TO DO ANYTHING SO IT SHOULDN'T BE
HAH?

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID WHEN WE FIRST MET? I WANT TO USE YOU TO CONQUER THE WORLD

WE CANNOT WIN UNLESS WE TRY TO SELL SOMETHING THAT NOBODY HAS YET SET THEIR HANDS UPON.
SLOSH
EVEN IF YOU STUMBLED THERE, I WOULD HAVE OVER-LOOKED IT
SLOSH

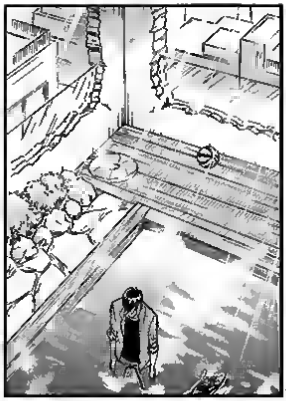
THE U S DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS DECLARED THAT IN ADDITION TO EXISTING FIELDS OF LAND, SEA, AIR AND SPACE, CYBERSPACE WILL BE "THE FIFTH BATTLEGROUND"
I WILL BE DIVING INTO THAT FIELD WITH YOU YOURSELF AS THE COMMODITY

AT SOME POINT, YOU WILL CHANGE

glub
glub
IHHSH WSTHSATH WHOHW HYOHULL MAKAEH MHHNHY?
(IS THAT HOW YOU'LL MAKE MONEY?)

A JOB...IS THE SAME AS A SEA VOYAGE.
A PLEASANT JOURNEY COULD TURN INTO A BATTLE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH IN THE SPAN OF A DAY.
I WANT TO SEE A NEW WORLD, TOGETHER WITH YOU.

I'M...
I'M GLAD. I HAVE COMPUTER
HIM... I'M GLAD... I HAVE—



A REASON FOR ME TO LIVE...
THIS IS... MY JOB.

YES. THIS IS YOUR JOB.
SAKAI-SAN... PLEASE...SET SAIL ON THIS VOYAGE WITH ME.

{CODE 0:}

Kings' Viking DATABASE

The untold stories of the fools and terminology that appear in the manga...etc

Koreeda Kazuki's PC

The computer that Koreeda has used this computer up to the point that the keytop characters have faded. It is an acclaimed high-performance ThinkPad X41 (Made by IBM in 2005)
The ThinkPad has a "trackpoint" which allowed maneuverability of the mouse without moving one's hands from the keyboard. A lot of people were quite fond of this. Furthermore IBM's generation of keyboards had an established reputation for feeling comfortable to use, making the brand extremely popular. These days IBM has been acquired by Lenovo, but there are those who say "after switching to Lenovo the feel of the keyboard changed." Therefore, there are still people who prefer using IBM era computers even today.

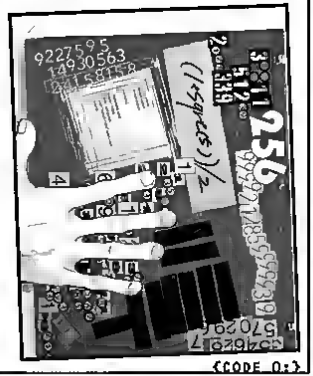
Linux

Koreeda's X41 is loaded with the "Ubuntu" Linux OS distribution. The Linux source code was made completely open to the public so people were able to modify it however they wanted, making it pervasive among hackers. Koreeda has also made a few minor tune-ups. A stock X41 only comes with 512MB of RAM which is not enough to run "Ubuntu", so Koreeda installed an additional 2GB of RAM. Koreeda has also done things like switch the Ctrl and CapsLock keys in the settings.

{CODE 0:}

The Cover of Koreeda's PC

These are the numbers and stickers attached to the cover of Koreeda's laptop.
For example, [(1+ sqrt(5)) / 2] is the formula for the golden ratio. The black tape evaluates to "256" in rod numerals, a counting system created from counting rods, a calculation tool used in the past.



{CODE 0:}

Sakai's Theatre Room

Sakai's hobby room. Posters of Lucio Fulci's "The Gates of Hell" and Quentin Tarantino's "Death Proof" adorn the walls. There are life-sized figures of Razor Face from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" Pinhead from "Hellraiser", along with Cyrus and The Baseball Furies from "The Warriors"

{CODE 1 :#2}

Sakai's Bicycle

Sakai's bike is a "c59 60ttanta" a model made by Italian bike maker COLNAGO to commemorate Ernesto Colnago's 60th birthday. They are only released every 12 years. Only 60 exist throughout the world, with a price roughly around 189,000 yen

{CODE 0:}

Koreeda's Pet Dog 256

A 9 year old Bernese mountain dog. When data was being collected on programming methods, many held the opinion that the number 256 held a mesmerizing effect when asked what their favorite number was, hence the name 256

{CODE 0:}

Sakai started his first company in the 80's through an early century product, David Cronenberg's cult horror "video drama". At the time American DVDs, due to different region codes, could not be played through Japanese video players, so Sakai imported and sold the DVDs and players. By the way, the thing Sakai's iPad was placed inside of is a standard issue ziploc bag specially created for use while bathing. Recommended to use with freezers rather than refrigerators.

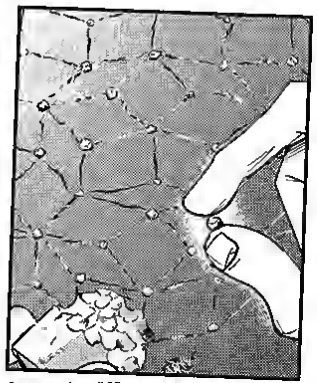
{CODE 1 :#5}

Twitter

Sakai and Katou's twitter accounts actually exist. Sakai's is "@sakaam" and Katou's is "@tsuyoGORI".

{CODE 1 :#3}

The Movie Sakai was Watching on his iPad

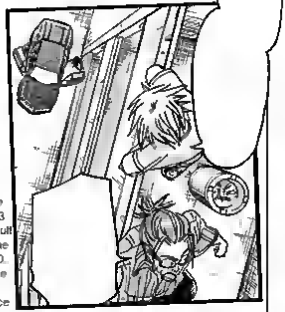


{CODE_1 :#5}

The Pattern Koreeda was Making with His Eraser

The pattern is of two types of crystals combined to cover a flat surface. This "penrose tile" shape is a bit perplexing, because for some reason the same pattern doesn't repeat itself. The angles of these two crystals are also related to the "golden ratio" and related formula.

Sakai's Beloved Car



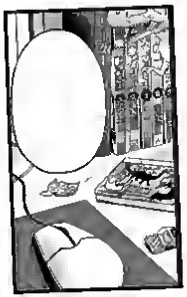
The 1973 Renault Alpine A310, made in France

{CODE_2 :#1}

[Tokyo Tox Box] is a manga I saw on the bookshelf of the company I went to acquire material for writing the Game Company Arc in Code 2. Since I was always saying "It's my bible!" I was allowed to include it in the manga. To the extremely skilled author of the manga I sincerely appreciate your work!

"Tokyo Toy Box"

"Giga Tokyo Toy Box"

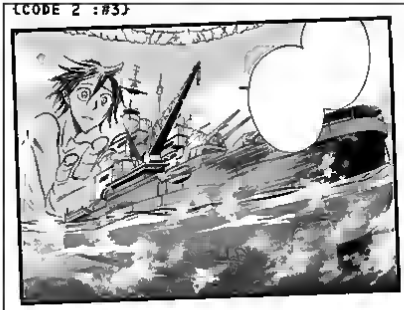


{CODE_2 :#2}

IRC is a chat method that has been around for quite a while. Koreeda uses ERC, an IRC chat client integrated into "Emacs". By the way, the "#gamehack" channel that Koreeda came into contact with the crackers actually does exist.

{CODE_2 :#2}

{CODE 2 :#3}



Modeled off of the Queen Elizabeth Class warship "Warspite" that was used in WW2. Continuing to fight even after sustaining countless injuries, the Warspite was titled "unsinkable". Isn't the ship the perfect metaphor for startups who must move forward, despite the risks they continuously face?

A battleship afloat in an open-air hot spring.

{CODE 0:} The puzzle that Koreeda received from Sakai has been released!

Question 1 Decipher the code below

JUNGVFGURNAFJREGBGURHYGVZNGRDHRFGVBABSYVSRGURHAVIREFRNAQRIRELGUVAT

Question one is a preliminary test. This is called a [Caesar Cipher]. Shift the alphabet to reveal the hidden message. After deciphering the code the phrase that appears is from the famous science fiction novel "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", the answer is "42". Additionally if you google the question, 42 appears.

This example uses the most traditional style: 13 character shifting. If it's a N, it is read as N. If it's B, it is read as O.

JUNGVFGURNAFJREGBGURHYGVZNGRDHRFGVBABSYVSRGURHAVIREFRNAQRIRELGUVAT

↓↓↓

TERMS USED

ANGEL / ANGEL INVESTORS | AN AFFLUENT INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES CAPITAL FOR A START-UP BUSINESS , USUALLY IN EXCHANGE FOR CONVERTIBLE DEBT OR OWNERSHIP EQUITY. TYPICALLY COMES IN DURING THE EARLY STAGES, AND SOMETIMES ALSO OFFERS THEIR ADVICE/BUSINESS EXPERIENCE. TYPICALLY NOT NEARLY AS INVOLVED AS VC, AND GENERALLY HAS DIFFERENT MOTIVES (MORE THAN JUST MONEY).

VENTURE CAPITAL: SIMILAR TO ANGEL INVESTORS, BUT ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL. FUNDING WISE. RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS, VENTURE CAPITAL IS USUALLY A FIRM/COMPANY, COMPLETE WITH INVESTORS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND ETC. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY PROVIDE IS MUCH GREATER AS WELL. ANGEL INVESTORS MAY GO UP TO, SAY $1,000,000, BUT FOR VC, $1,000,000 IS A BARE MINIMUM. ANGELS INVEST IN EARLY-STAGE START-UPS, WHILE VC USUALLY INVESTS IN GROUPS PAST THAT STAGE (ALTHOUGH THEY SOMETIMES INVEST IN REALLY PROMISING START UPS AS WELL).

ZOMBIE/踏み台: 踏み台 IN JAPANESE IS USED RATHER BROADLY, BUT IT IS ESSENTIALLY REFERRING TO A MACHINE THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY A 3RD PARTY AND IS BEING USED FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. WE USE THE WORD "ZOMBIE" HERE, AS THAT IS THE GENERAL TERM USED IN ENGLISH.

GREE: A SHITTY PLATFORM THAT HAS BROWSER/MOBILE GAMES AND STUFF. IT'S TECHNICALLY A SOCIAL NETWORKING SERVICE (SNS).

HACKER: IN JAPANESE, THE KANJI FOR "HACKER" IS THE SAME AS "CRIMINAL". IN TERMS OF MEANING THOUGH, THE MANGA TRENDS TOWARDS THE ENGLISH MEANING, IN WHICH A TRUE "HACKER" IS EXTREMELY SKILLED BOTH TECHNICALLY AND PRACTICALLY A "CRACKER" IS CLOSER TO A SCRIPT KIDDY WHO JUST USES THINGS AND BREAKS STUFF.

CREDITS TO なこ FOR THE IMAGE.
WWW.PIXIV.NET/MEMBER.PHP?ID=1714514